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**DIRECTIONS FOR OPERATING
THE DURABILT F. O. MINUTE BOOK**

(FLEXIBLE POSTS) SHORT PULL ROD STYLE

PATENT 967537—1019174—1056926—1247438—1247704—1738305
ABOVE PATENT NUMBERS MUST NOT BE COVERED

TO UNLOCK the book, raise cover to be unlocked to a vertical position, and pull rod out as far as it will come.

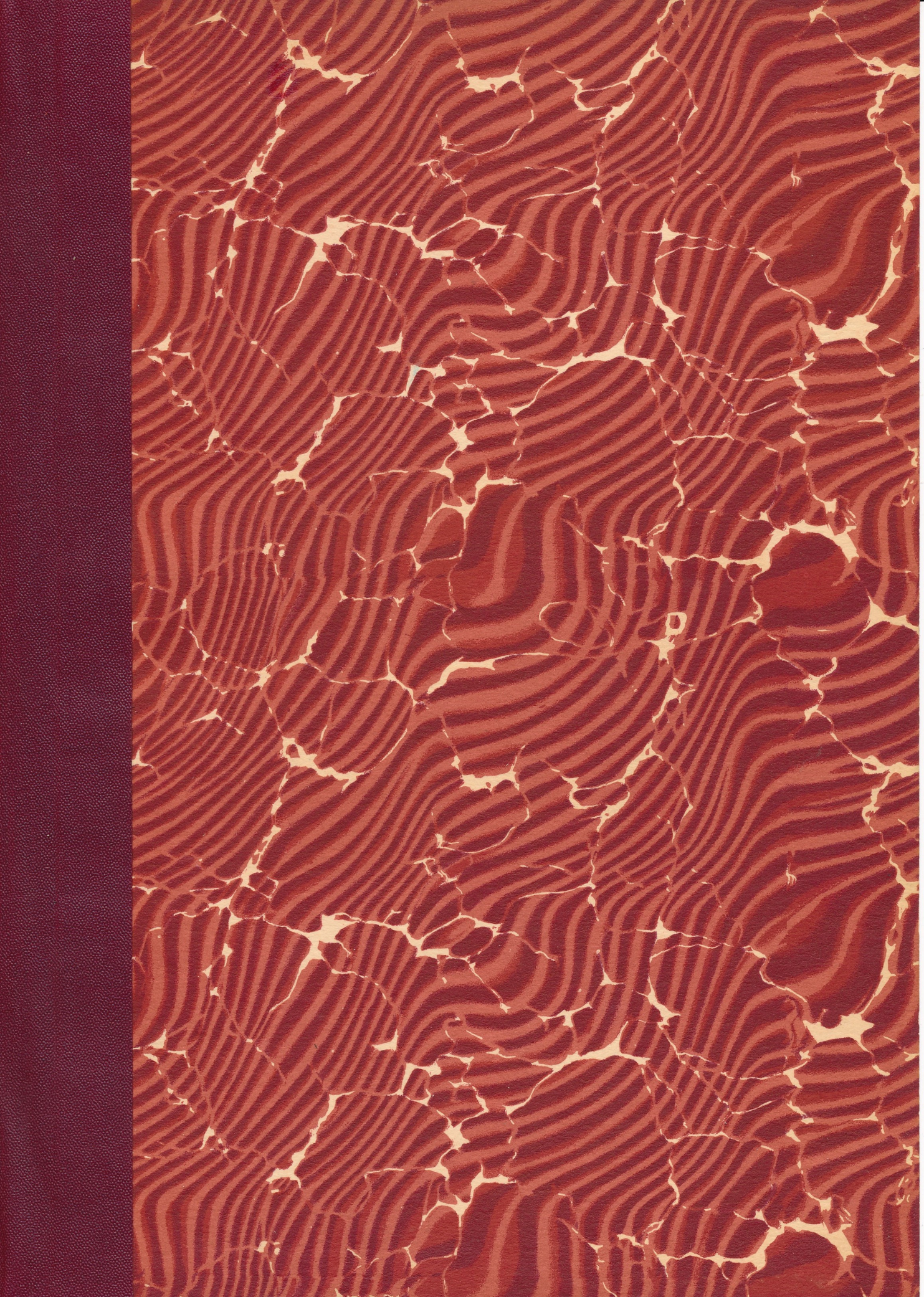
TO LOCK—Adjust the cover back into position so the notches in the cover fit over the posts, then push in rod.

Do not attempt to unlock either cover unless opposite cover is locked, as posts should always be held in one of the covers.

TO LOCK BOOK PERMANENTLY—This is only to be done when all the sheets are written up and placed in the binder, for once permanently locked, it is impossible to unlock or open it.

For this purpose two permanent locking buttons are furnished. Insert these sealing buttons into the round holes near end of locking case so that the slot in the Sealing Button runs lengthwise with the binder. Then drive in button with sufficient force to turn the ends of split button. This permanently locks and seals the book.

MADE IN U. S. A.



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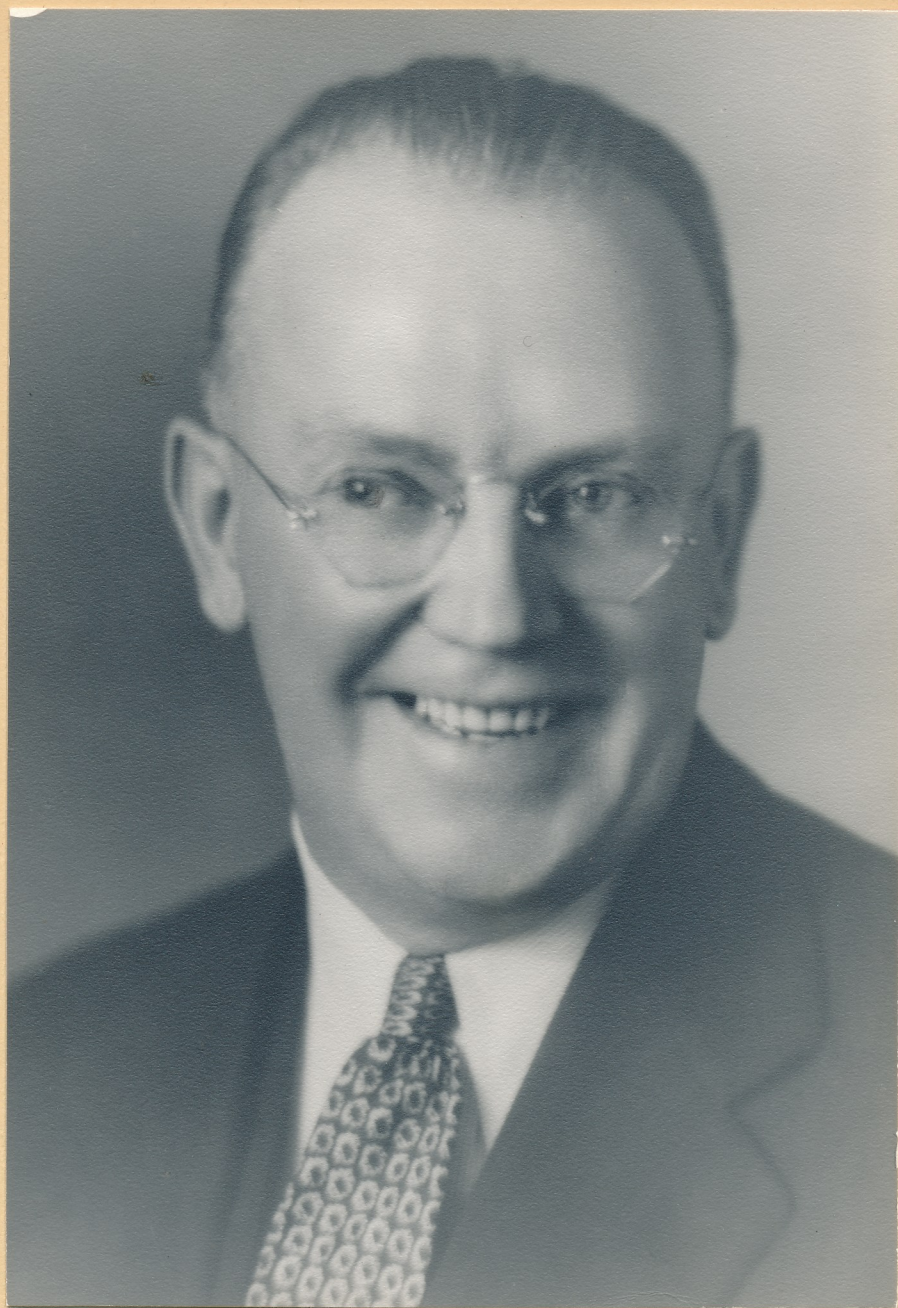
HISTORICAL DIRECTORY



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Rev. Henry Kooi

76-17835

Mrs. Agnes Lemmer Kooi



Mrs. Henry Kooi

R E V . & M R S .
H E N R Y R A L P H K O O I

-o-

Henry Ralph Kooi was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, July 20, 1887, son of Henry and Bertha Meyer Kooi, of Holland descent. Henry Kooi, the father, was born February 22, 1857, and died July 11, 1922. His wife was born March 3, 1858, and died July 9, 1934.

Henry Ralph Kooi was reared in Kalamazoo and attended the Vine Street School, after which, at the age of nineteen, he was employed for six years by the Kalamazoo Gas Works. He then began to study for the Gospel ministry under private instruction. In 1929, he became the pastor of the Oakwood Undenominational Church and has served that church since then. He was ordained by the National Evangelical Association of America and at one time was vice president of that Association. In politics, he is a Republican.

July 11, 1911, he was married to Agnes Lemmer, daughter of Cornelius and Cora Cook Lemmer, residents of Kalamazoo, where Agnes was brought up and educated. Cornelius Lemmer died February 17, 1926.

Mr. and Mrs. Kooi became the parents of:

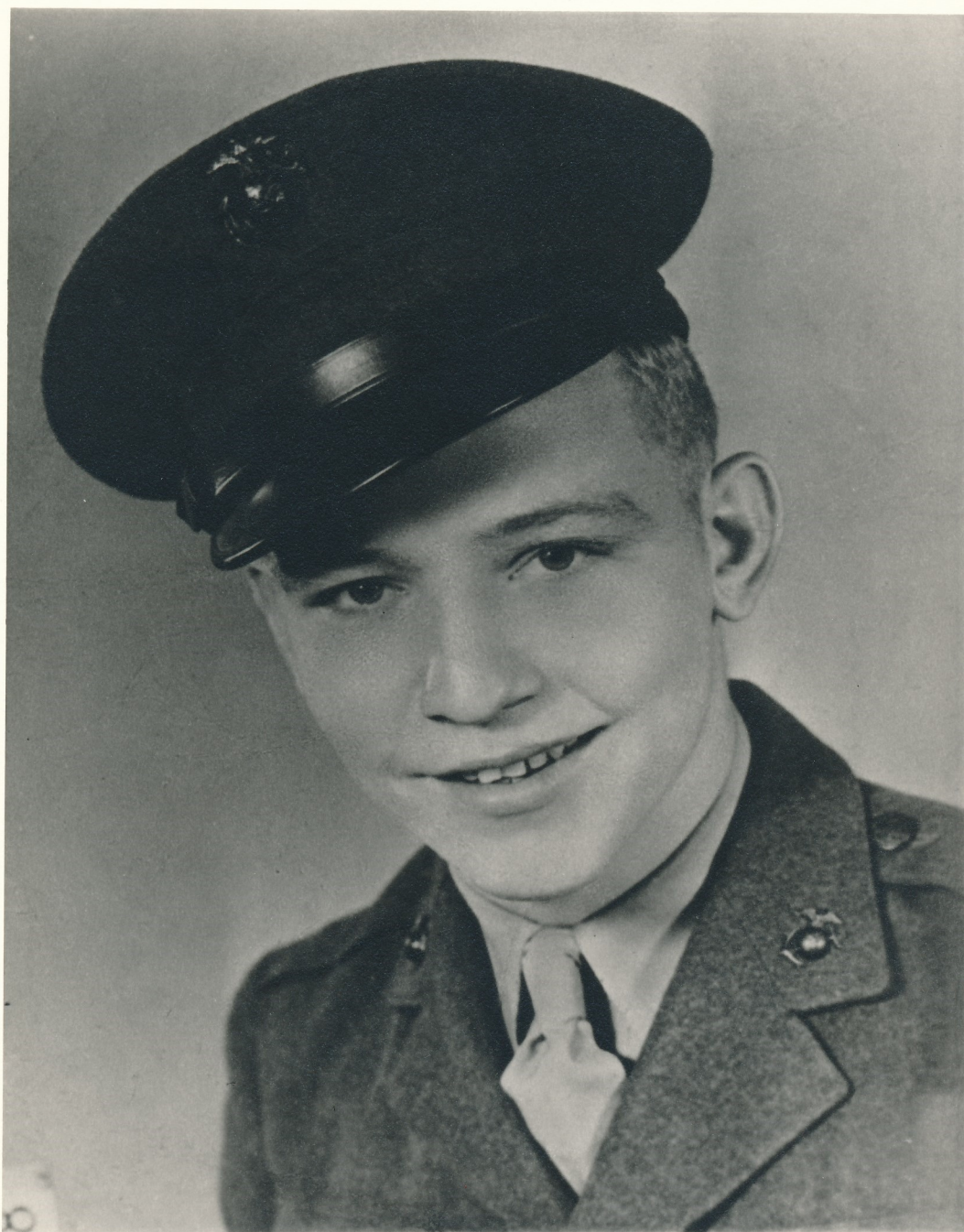
Henry, Jr., who was born October 24, 1913, married Dorothy Douma, became the father of Marcia Louise, born [REDACTED]; and Coral Jane, born December 9, 1916, married Raymond Nason and resides in Kalamazoo.

Mrs. Agnes Lemmer Kooi passed to her reward October 8, 1940, at the age of fifty-two years and twenty-two days, having been born September 17, 1888. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Abraham Rynbrandt and burial was in Riverside cemetery. This was written in 1941.

Henry, Jr., who was born October 24, 1913, married
 Dorothy Downs, became the father of Marie Louise,
 born October 13, 1940; and Coral Elaine, born December
 2, 1918, married Raymond Mason and resides in
 Kalamazoo.

Mrs. Agnes Lemmer Kool passed to her reward
 October 8, 1940, at the age of fifty-two years and
 twenty-two days, having been born September 17, 1888.
 The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Abraham
 Rybrandt and burial was in Riverside cemetery.
 This was written in 1941.

Jack Arthur Kooi



J A C K A R T H U R K O O I

1 9 2 5 - 1 9 4 5

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Private Jack Arthur Kooi of the United States Marine Corps was killed in action on the night of his second day in battle on Iwo Jima when a mortar shell struck his fox hole February 20, 1945.

His body was buried in the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery in grave 263, row 14, plot 1. A memorial service was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 18, 1945, at The Lane Boulevard Evangelical Church. Four hundred eighty people attended the service. Guards to the colors were Edward Miller, Arthur VerSluis, Dan Ward and Robert Bird. The Oakwood Boys Quartet, Douglas DeSmit, Donald Daam, Rex DeVall and Carl DeVall, sang, and Mr. William Hunt sang a solo. The Reverend L. S. Scheifele gave the message from Revelation 21:7, He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son. The Reverend Henry Kooi assisted in the service.

Jack was drafted February 28, 1944, and was sent to Detroit where he joined the Marines. He was then sent to San Diego, California, where he

received his boot training and his training in radio and was graduated with the highest honors in his class. He was then sent to Camp Pendleton, California, where he remained from September 2, 1944, until November 25, 1944, when he was shipped to Pearl Harbor and was there until January 23, 1945. He was then sent to Iwo Jima.

Education

Jack Arthur Kooi attended the Washington School in Kalamazoo, Michigan, through the ninth grade and then went to Central High School from which he was graduated January 28, 1944. While in school he worked evenings and Saturdays in Peck's drug store.

Jack's Birth and Family

He was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, November 28, 1925, son of Fred H., and Lila Alice Burchett Kooi, of Holland and English Descent.

Arlene Mildred Kooi, Jack's older sister, was born March 17, 1919, married Harm DeYoung and they became the parents of Frederick Allen, born November 8, 1939, and Roger Lee, born June 4, 1943, and they reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Richard Gordon, Jack's only brother, was born April 15, 1922, and served three years in the army before he was honorably discharged at Camp Grant, Illinois, December 2, 1945. He sailed for the European theatre October 6, 1944, and landed in Marseilles, France. He engaged in the battle of the Vosges Mountains and the battle of Ardennes. He was on the right flank in the battle of the Bulge in December 1944, crossed the Siegfried

Line and the Rhine and fought all the way through Germany into Austria and met the Fifth Army from Italy at Brenner Pass May 8, 1945. He returned to the United States September 15, 1945. He served in the Army Headquarters Field Artillery, 103rd Division and is now residing with his parents.

Shirley Ellen Kooi, Jack's younger sister, was born [REDACTED], is a student in the tenth grade in Central High School and resides with her parents.

Personal Characteristics

Jack Arthur Kooi was five feet nine inches tall and weighed about one hundred sixty-five pounds. He had blonde hair and blue eyes. Jack enjoyed base ball, foot ball, golf, tennis, swimming, boating and bowling and was fond of the radio. He was also musical and sang bass in the Central High School choir. He also took part in the H. M. S. Pinafore play.

He belonged to what was known as a neighborhood gang, the other members of which were Ivan Moerman, Edward Miller, Richard Dombos, Fred Lamson, Harry Small, Glen Doonan, Robert VerDries and Robert Mattison.

Jack attended the Lane Boulevard Evangelical Church and Sunday School and made a record of perfect attendance for nine years. On the way to Iwo Jima he was baptized by his chaplain on board ship.

The following is a copy of a letter:

U. S. MARINE CORPS
FIFTH JOINT ASSAULT COMMAND
C/o Fleet P. O., San Francisco,
California

4 May 1945

Mr. Frederick Kooi,
1208 Reed Street,
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Dear Mr. Kooi,-

It is with sincere regret that I write this letter to inform you of the circumstances of your son's death on February 21, 1945, at Iwo Jima Volcano Islands. I am his commanding officer and wish to tell you personally how deeply we share your loss. Jack was a sincere and good man, a fine Marine, and we shall miss him sorely.

On the night of Day plus 2, the enemy began a heavy mortar barrage in Jack's area. One of the shells entered his fox hole, killing him instantly. He was laid to rest with appropriate services in the 5th Marine Division Cemetery, where his grave was afterwards visited by members of his team.

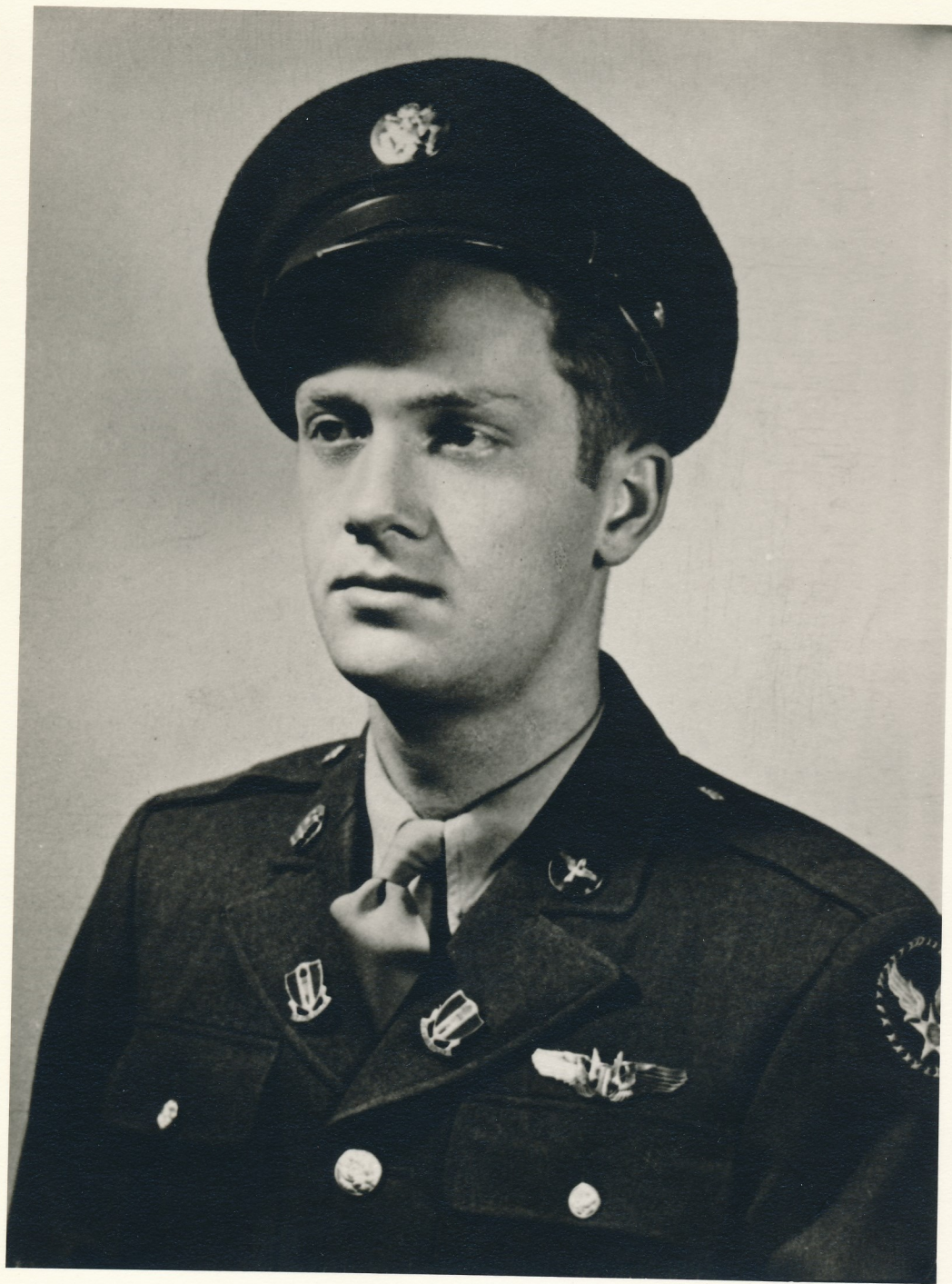
It is extremely difficult to find words of comfort for the family of a man who has given his life, but it must never be forgotten that Jack died that others might live and in a battle whose valor will ever endure in American history.

Sincerely yours,
R. C. POWER, JR.,
Major, U. S. Marine Corps,
Commanding

In honor of Jack Arthur Kooi, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Collins of Kalamazoo, Michigan, gave a sum of money to be placed in the Memorial Chapel Fund of The Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo. Jack's name will be inscribed in The Book of Remembrance to be kept in the chapel.

Jack Arthur Kooi's gold star hangs in the window at 1208 Reed Street and many other windows in Kalamazoo, and throughout the United States frame similar stars whose radiance illumines the path of duty for those who remain. That path leads to a warless world. All honor to these brave young men whose worth is but sybolized by stars of gold !

Robert Edwin Kooi



R O B E R T E D W I N K O O I

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Technical Sergeant Robert Edwin Kooi was officially presumed dead by the war department as of November 21, 1944. He was a crew member of a B-24 bomber which left Madhaiganj, India, on that date and flew a bombing mission to Geangluang Bridge over the Nammae Yom river, Northwestern Thailand, according to a letter from Major General Edward F. Witsell to Robert's parents, from which the following is taken:

"Over the target your son's plane started having difficulty which was believed to have been caused by enemy anti-aircraft fire. The ship began to bank to the left, came to almost a vertical bank, and slipped to the earth, exploding upon crashing. Investigation has failed to reveal any trace of your son or any members of the crew since that date."

Sergeant Kooi was an aerial engineer-gunner for the famous 7th bombardment group of the Tenth air force in the India-Burma theatre with thirty-five combat missions totaling 280 hours during his seven months' service.

He was drafted March 29, 1944, and was sent to Camp Grant, Illinois, and then to Keesler Field,

ROBERT EDWIN KOOL

1924 - 1944

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Sergeant Kool was an aerial engineer-gunner for the famous 7th bombardment group of the Tenth Air Force in the India-Burma theatre with thirty-five combat missions totaling 280 hours during his seven months' service.

He was drafted March 29, 1944, and was sent to Camp Grant, Illinois, and then to Keesler Field,

Mississippi, where he received his army air force training. He received further training at Hammer Field, Fresno, California, and was then sent to Miami, Florida, to be shipped overseas and landed in India.

In January 1945, Robert was awarded the air medal for meritorious achievement in aerial flight. The following was published in the Kalamazoo Gazette Sunday March 3, 1946:

"Posthumous award of the Air Medal to T/Sgt. Robert E. Kooi, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Kooi, 120 Wall street, was announced Saturday by Capt. Shirley L. Piersall, in charge of the U. S. army's Kalamazoo recruiting sub-station.

The medal was accepted by the flier's father at a ceremony in the recruiting office Friday. Sgt. Kooi was listed as missing following a flight over Thailand in November, 1944, and a year later was listed as presumed dead.

"The citation which accompanied the Air Medal follows:

'For meritorious achievement as engineer-gunner from 29 June 1944 to 7 August 1944, by participating in heavy bombardment missions and allied operational flights totaling more than one hundred hours during which exposure to enemy fire was probable and expected. These flights, in which he has flown from bases in India, over Burma, Thailand, China, and the Andaman Islands, have been eminently successful. The devotion to duty exhibited in the execution of these assignments, and the co-operation displayed therein as an essential and vital part of a combat team, has contributed much to the successes characterizing these operations."

Robert's Birth and Family

Robert Edwin Kooi was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 6, 1924, the son of David and

Alice Vanderwall Kooi, both of whom were of Holland descent. Mr. and Mrs. David Kooi were also the parents of:

Harold David, a Second Class Musician in the Navy - at this time, 1946, discharged - married Virginia Bos and they became the parents of Deborah Lynn and Ronald Lee and reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Dorothy Ruth, who married Robert S. Dillon and they became the parents of David Charles and Thomas Robert and reside in Kalamazoo and

Eleanor Jean, who died May 25, 1944.

Education

Robert attended the Parkwood, Vine Street and Central High Schools and was graduated from Central High in 1943.

While attending school he worked part time in the Van Avery drug store, and after graduation he worked full time for the General Gas Light Company.

Personal Characteristics

Robert Kooi was six feet one inch tall and weighed about one hundred forty-five pounds with dark hair and blue eyes.

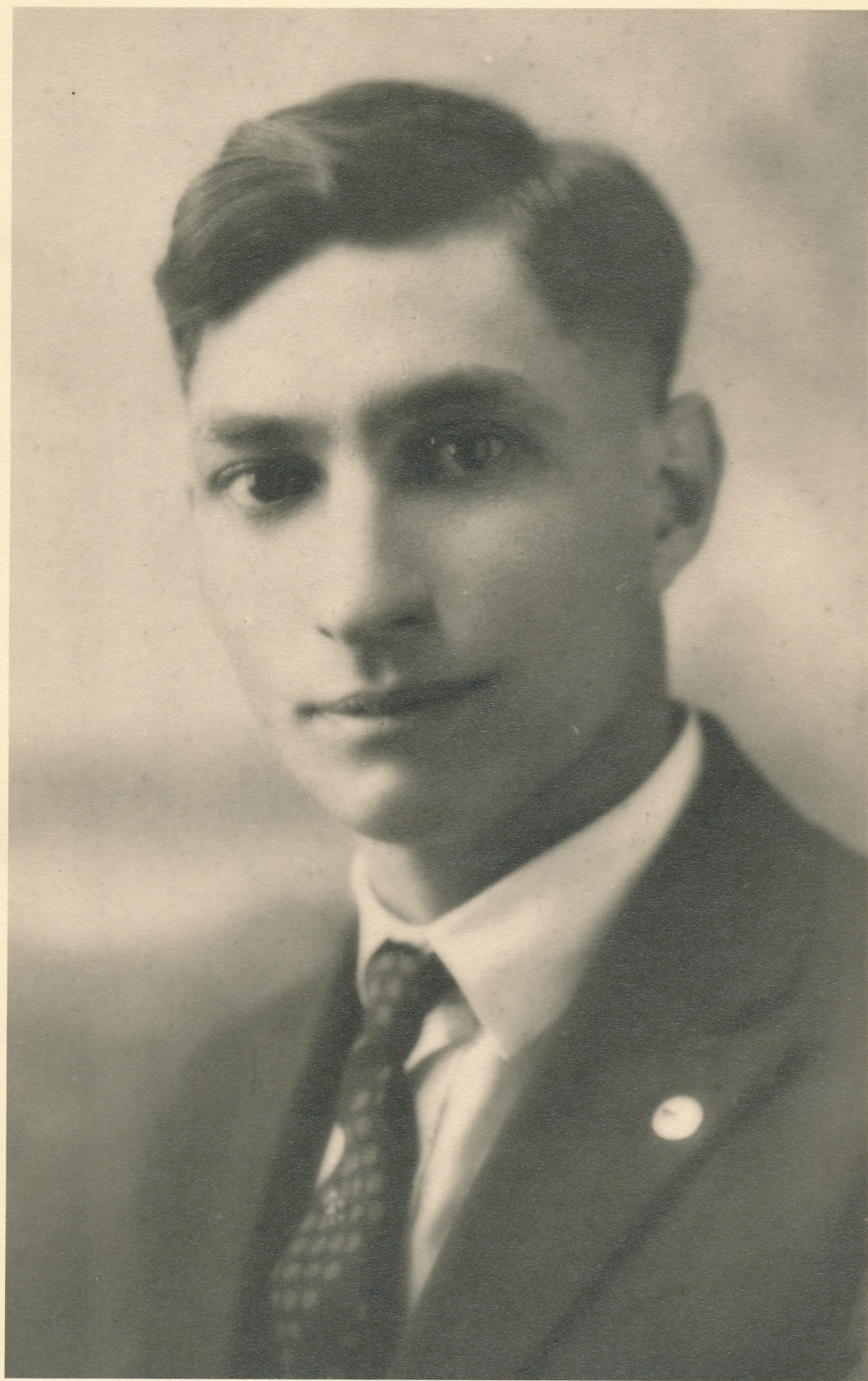
He enjoyed fishing and hunting and was much interested in machines and mechanical things, especially automobiles. He had a car and liked to fix it whenever it was in need of being fixed.

He liked music and sang in the Central High

School Quartet and Glee Club. He was jolly and witty and made many friends. He was baptized in the Third Christian Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Robert Edwin Kooi's gold star is added to the altogether too great number of gold stars which hang in the windows of Kalamazoo homes. The gold symbolizes their great worth and the stars shine to guide us all toward the goal of a world freed from tyranny and greed - a world of brotherhood and peace.

Merriell Dewey Elser Krohn



M E R R I E L L D E W E Y E L S E R K R O H N

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Merriell Krohn was born in Chicago, Illinois, April 15, 1898, son of John and Bertha Elser Krohn, both natives of Illinois.

When Merriell was five years old the family moved to Allegan, Michigan. He had a sister, Carrie, who died at the age of twenty-six years, and two brothers:

William, born November 5, 1902, married Marian Gilbert of Pine Grove, Van Buren county, Michigan, and they became the parents of
John Charles, born November 14, 1925, has been in the United States Navy since December 28, 1942,
Eugene, born November 22, 1929,
Carolyn, born [REDACTED],
Robert William, born [REDACTED], &
Kay, born [REDACTED];

Arthur, born March 23, 1907, married Ruth Schaafsma and became the father of George, born [REDACTED].

Merriell attended a rural school near the parent's farm which was located near the old Trowbridge dam in Allegan county. After leaving school he worked for farmers until he was eighteen years of age, when he enlisted in the United States Navy and served as gunner's mate, second class, and

was promoted before he was discharged to first class.

After the First World War, Merriell returned to Michigan and at the age of twenty-two years he began to work for the Consumer's Power Company, his first assignment being at the Trowbridge dam. From there he was transferred to the Elm Street Plant in Battle Creek and operated a small turbine. In May 1927 he came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, continuing with the same company until he had served them for twenty-three years, eventually becoming Shift Foreman.

September 14, 1926, Merriell Krohn was married to Iva Pearl Hunt by the Reverend William A. Taylor, then the minister of the Methodist Church in Lawton, Michigan. She was born in Hancock, Minnesota, June 6, 1904, the daughter of Fay and Lillian Borland Hunt. Fay Hunt was born near Battle Creek, Michigan, August 15, 1879, and his wife was born in Minnesota March 8, 1882. They were married in Benson, Minnesota, and he died June 6, 1941.

When Iva was five years old the family came to Michigan and resided at different times in Hastings, Mattewan and Lawton. They were also the parents of:

Reuben, born in Minnesota June 8, 1903, now, in 1943, living in California;

Bessie, born in Minnesota March 16, 1909, married C. L. Avery and became the

mother of
Shirley, born March 2, 1928,
Jacqueline, born March 11, 1930,
C. L. Jr., born [redacted],
Carla, born November 9, 1933, and
Brenda, born [redacted], and resides
in Battle Creek, Michigan;

Vera, born in Hastings, Michigan, September 24,
1913, married Marsden Rozell and they
became the parents of Sandra Lou, who
was born October 24, 1938 and reside in
Battle Creek, Michigan;

Florence, born in Lawton, Michigan, April 27,
1916, married Paul Saltzgaver, who is
now, 1943, in the United States Air Corps;

Dorothy, born in Lawton, Michigan, December 2,
1919, lives with her mother in Battle
Creek, Michigan;

Fay, Jr., born in Lawton, Michigan, June 3,
1923, is in the United States Air Corps
stationed at Fort Lawton, Washington; and

James, born in Battle Creek, Michigan,
December 11, 1925.

Mr. and Mrs. Merriell Krohn lived in Battle
Creek, Michigan, from September 14, 1926, until
April, 1927, when they moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan,
and resided at 515 Davis street. Later they pur-
chased a house at 553 Washburn avenue, where they
lived until his death and where Mrs. Krohn continues
to reside. Mr. and Mrs. Krohn became the parents
of:

Robert, born September 25, 1927, lived but a
short time;

Marilyn, born October 11, 1928, is a student
at Roosevelt Junior High School;

Donald, born October 10, 1930, is also a

student in Roosevelt Junior High School;
Richard, born September 16, 1936;
Kenneth, born March 16, 1938; and
Gerald, born [REDACTED].

The father of this young family was taken ill in the late fall of 1942 and was taken to the Veterans' Hospital in Dearborn, Michigan. He returned to his home in Kalamazoo February 27, 1943, where he remained until July 2, 1943, when he was again taken to the Veterans' Hospital in Dearborn, where he passed away July 11, 1943.

Funeral services were conducted with military rites by the Reverend Richard F. Barram, pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, under the auspices of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The color bearers were Garrett Ullrich and Harry Merrill, and William H. Reifsnyder was the bugler.

Personal Characteristics

Mr. Krohn was five feet nine inches in height, of slender build, with black hair which turned white early in his youth. His eyes were brown. He was prepossessing in appearance, a very diligent worker, persisting in going to his work when he was physically unfit to do so.

He was optimistic in his outlook upon life and was well balanced in his judgment. He was tolerant

in his relations with others. In his work as Shift Foreman, the men who worked with him looked upon him as a pleasant, brotherly type of boss, who had the faculty of putting himself in the other man's place.

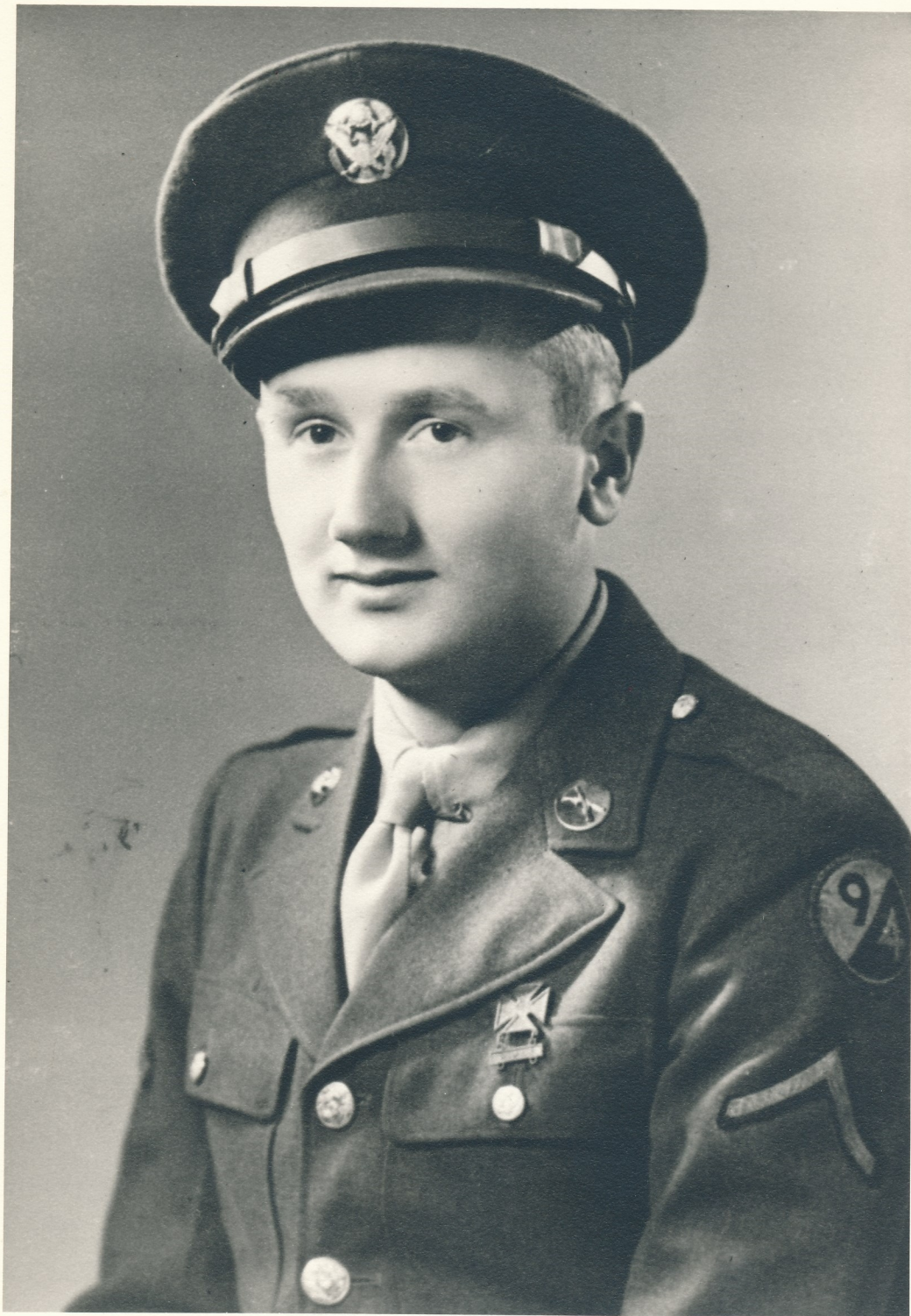
Merriell was a member of the German Lutheran Church and had been a member of the Oddfellows. He was active in the Luzon Argonne Post 827, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He had come from a Christian home and wanted his children reared in the atmosphere that would make of them honorable men and women in their business and social relations.

He was fond of his home and family and rarely went out to social affairs, preferring to spend his leisure time in his own home.

Merriell Krohn was honest and straightforward in his dealings with others and his life was spent in the good paths that lead to better things.

Werner Krueger



W E R N E R K R U E G E R

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Private First Class Werner Krueger was killed in combat on Okinawa April 27, 1945. He was called into the army March 22, 1943, and received his training at Camp Francis E. Warren, Wyoming, and Camp Phillips, Kansas, and was then transferred to a tank unit.

While he was with the 94th Infantry division at Camp Phillips he received the expert rifleman's badge. He came home on furlough in June 1944 before reporting to the West Coast for overseas assignment.

From Camp Phillips he was sent to Camp McCain, Mississippi, and then to Camp Cooke, California. From Camp Cooke he was sent to the Hawaiian Islands sometime in November 1944. There he received further training and was promoted to Private First Class.

Easter Sunday 1945 he participated in the invasion of Okinawa and was in one of the flame throwing tanks. Twenty-six days later he made the supreme sacrifice.

WERNER KRUEGER

1921 - 1945

-9-

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Birth and Education

Werner Krueger was born in Berlin, Germany, September 6, 1921, son of Otto and Lena Krueger, who were also born in Berlin, Germany. Werner had a sister, Elsie, who was born in Berlin, Germany, March 4, 1924.

The family came to St. Joseph, Berrien county, Michigan, and later to Kalamazoo, Michigan, living first on North street and afterward making their permanent home on Gibson street.

Werner began his schooling in Berlin, Germany, and continued it in Kalamazoo, Michigan, at the Woodward Avenue School. He entered the Central High School in 1935 and was graduated in 1939.

He at once found employment at the Sutherland Paper Mill in the printing department and was still there when he was called into the armed service.

Marriage

On March 21, 1942, Werner was married to Miss Betty J. Stephens of Kalamazoo, Michigan. The officiating clergyman was the Reverend L. E. Burgess, pastor of the Evangelical Church in St. Joseph, Michigan.

Betty Stephens was born January 17, 1922, daughter of O. R. Stephens and May Crapoff Stephens, both of whom were born in the United States.

Betty Stephens was graduated from Central High School in 1940 and since November 1940 has been employed at the Michigan Bell Telephone Company office and at the time of this writing in 1946 is Acting Chief Operator.

Personal Characteristics

Werner enjoyed fishing for recreation, but he was a home boy and liked to read and listen to the radio and spend his evenings at home.

He was five feet six inches in height, of medium weight and had medium light hair and blue eyes.

He was retiring in disposition, but being well read he carried on interesting conversations with members of the family and guests.

Mr. Krueger was industrious, just and honorable in his dealings, charitable towards the faults of others, possessed an even disposition, a warm smile, a tender love for his wife, his parents and his sister. He believed in the goodness of human nature, the nearness of his Heavenly Father as One Who knows and cares, and the life to come.

He attended the Lane Boulevard Evangelical Church with his wife, who was a member of that Church. He was a fine man and a gallant soldier.



Frances McCollum Krymer

F R A N C E S M c C U L L O M K R Y M E R

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Frances McCullom, daughter of George and Lucy Baldwin Krymer, was born in Aurora, Illinois, on May 29, 1844. She was one of a family of twelve children. The family had originally resided in Montrose, Penn., coming to Aurora in 1837, when only two families lived there.

The child, Frances, was educated in the public schools of that town, then attended Jennings Seminary.

On September 16, 1869, she was united in marriage to Mr. Wellington Krymer and the young couple established their home in Kalamazoo. Two daughters were born to this marriage, Blanche, who later became Mrs. George Brown, and Grace who married W. W. Elliott, both daughters residing in Kalamazoo, and one son, Chauncey T. who resides in Santiago, Cal.

Mrs. Krymer was an outstanding Christian woman, having joined the First Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, in early young womanhood.

On February 12, 1935, Mrs. Krymer met with an accident, which caused her death July 23, 1935. At this time of writing, (1936) her three children sur-

vive, and also four grand children and three great grand children. She had been a member of the First Baptist Church for a period of sixty-seven years. She attended services regularly, and was an ardent lover of her church and her Lord. One of her daughters characterized her as "a beautiful mother, of great faith, keen mind, and rare intellect."

"The one whom ye call dead
Lives and loves you; gone 'tis true,
From such sight as shines for you;
But in the light ye cannot see
Of unfulfilled felicity;
In enlarging paradise
Lived a life that never dies.

"Farewell dear! yet not farewell;
Where I am, ye too, shall dwell.
I am gone before your face
A moment's time, a little space.
When ye come where I have stepped
Ye will wonder why ye wept."

Daniel Ernst Kuhn



Daniel Ernst Kuhn



Anna Mumbly Kuhn

Anne Mumbly Kuhn

D A N I E L E R N S T K U H N

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Daniel Ernst Kuhn was born in Brady Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, June 24, 1859, son of Barbara Ernst and Frederick Kuhn, both of whom were born in Alsace-Lorraine.

Daniel Kuhn's grand-father was a tall man and was selected to be a member of Napoleon's body-guard. During the war of 1870, between France and Germany, Daniel's grand-mother had to live in the cellar to avoid the German troops.

Daniel Kuhn had the following brothers and sisters: George, an undertaker in Mendon, Michigan, died in 1894; Magdalena, who died in 1911; Mrs. Saloma McClary, who resided in Galesburg, Michigan, and died in 1920; Dr. William Frederick, M. D., of Kansas City, deceased, General Grand High Priest of Masonry in the United States; Phillip Edward of Vicksburg, Michigan; Mrs. Emma Miller, deceased; Mrs. Eva Louise Sacrider, deceased; Mrs. Caroline Helena White of Lakewood, Ohio.

Daniel Kuhn attended school in Vicksburg. His youth was spent on the same farm and in the same home

where he lived the remainder of his life. He was an excellent farmer and took prizes for corn, the best in Michigan, at East Lansing. One prize was a corn planter won in 1920, for the best ten ears of corn. At another time he received a silver cup for the best single ear of corn. He also received a silver cup for the best Jersey cow in Kalamazoo County.

Mr. Kuhn served at one time as Justice of the Peace, elected by the Democratic party. He was a member of Brady Lodge F. and A. M. No. 208, Lotus Lily Chapter of the Eastern Star No. 262, and the Royal Arch Masons Chapter No. 135. He was a Past Master at Mendon.

Mr. Kuhn was intensely interested in civic affairs. The first Rural Free Delivery in his community was largely the result of his efforts in circulating the petition that finally brought free mail delivery to the homes of the neighborhood. He also labored zealously for the Rural Telephone and was one of the first in the community to have a telephone installed in his home. He was also instrumental in securing the building of the stone road which passed his farm. For many years he served as director of the school district in which he lived.

At the age of about thirteen Mr. Kuhn was con-

firmed in the Lutheran Church. He was interested in athletic sports, especially base ball.

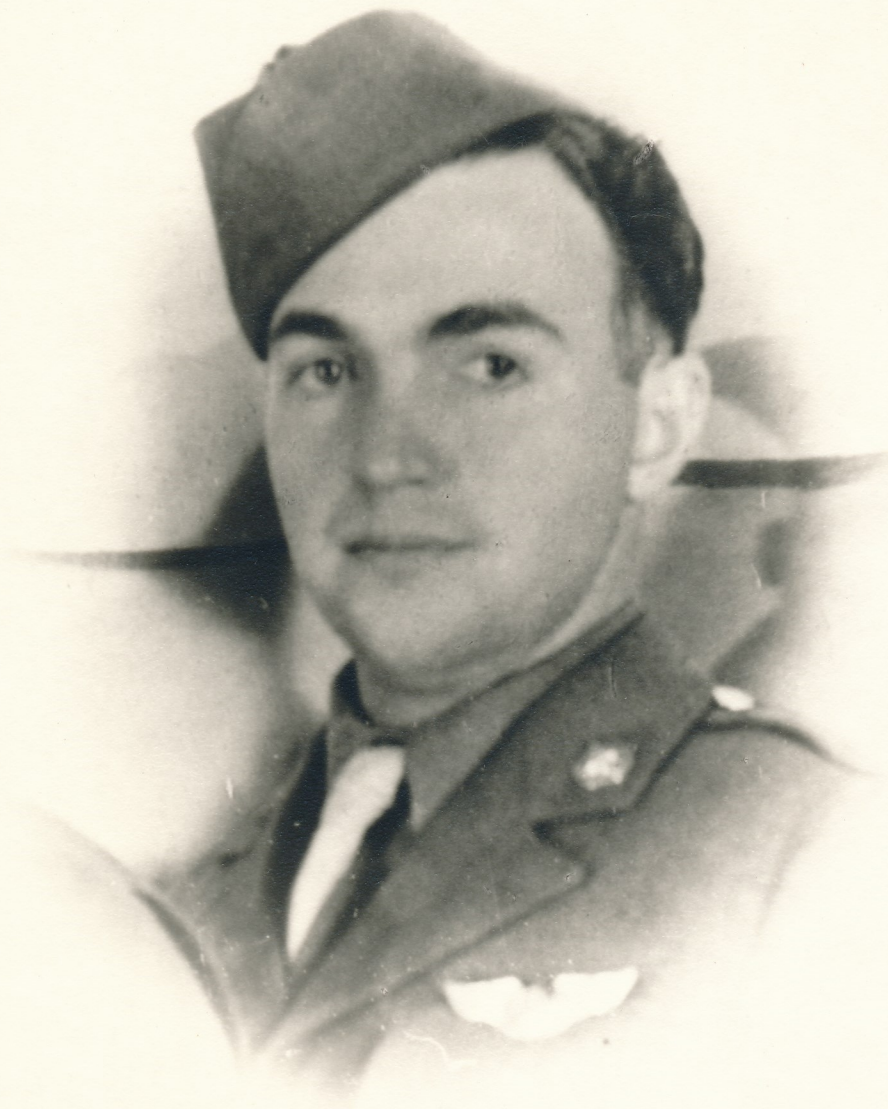
October 31, 1894, Daniel Ernst Kuhn was married to Anne Maria Mumby, daughter of Hannah Whitehead and James Mumby, both of English descent. Anne Mumby was born in Lincolnshire, England, January 2, 1872. She attended school in England until she came to Mendon, Michigan in 1883. She graduated from the Mendon High School in 1890, attended the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, one year and taught rural schools for about six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn were the parents of the following children: Paul J., born January 25, 1896, married Amy Babcock, resides in Vicksburg, Michigan; Bernard Daniel, born October 12, 1899, married Ruby Skellinger, resides in Menominee, Michigan; Ruth Marie, born April 19, 1901, married Robert F. Lockwood, deceased, resides at 1117 Lane Boulevard, Kalamazoo; George William, born February 9, 1904, married Martha Ladd, is Superintendent of schools in Trout Creek, Michigan.

Paul J. Kuhn graduated from the short course at Michigan State College in 1920. Bernard Kuhn completed the four year course at Michigan State with the class of 1923. George Kuhn graduated from the four year course at Michigan State in 1926.

Death came to Daniel Ernst Kuhn at his farm home April 11, 1926. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend R. B. Cilley and burial was at Vicksburg.

paul Edward Kyes



P A U L E D W A R D K Y E S

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Staff Sergeant Paul Edward Kyes, 36197581, attached to the 324th Bombardment Squadron, 91st Air Group, 8th Air Force, participated in the raid over Vegesack, Germany, March 18, 1943, the first raid entirely by four-motor bombers.

A casualty message from the commanding officer of the European Area reported that Sergeant Kyes was missing in action 28 March 1943 between Rouen, France, and the English Channel. On November 17, 1943, seven and one-half months later, the war department sent a message informing his parents that sufficient evidence indicated that their son was killed in action March 28, 1943.

Pilot Captain Anderson wrote to the parents that the plane in which their son was gunner was attacked by enemy fighter planes and one motor was set on fire. That fire was put out, but they were attacked again. The Captain saw two men bail out but was unable to recognize them. The plane then disappeared in the clouds with another motor smoking.

Birth and Education

Paul was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, December 4,

1918, son of Paul Theodore Kyes, who was born in Barry county, Michigan, March 22, 1897, and Edith S. Oswald Kyes, who was born in Highland county, Ohio, January 24, 1901. They were married in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and reside now, in 1946, at 2110 Humphrey street, Kalamazoo. They also became the parents of:

Donald Eugene, born September 25, 1924, died twenty-four hours later and was buried in Riverside cemetery;

Mildred Louise, born [REDACTED];

Dolores Jean, born January 22, 1928; and

Alan Theodore, born March 23, 1930.

All the children were born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and those living still reside with their parents.

Paul attended the Roosevelt School in Kalamazoo; also the Washington School; and finished the sixth grade at Woodrow Wilson School; then returned to Roosevelt School for his seventh, eighth and ninth grade work and was graduated from Central High School in 1938.

After graduation he was employed in the Pail Division of the Sutherland Paper Company, where he remained until he left for the armed service of the United States April 29, 1942.

He received his basic training at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and then went to Las Vegas Gunnery School, where he received his Gunner's Wings July 6, 1942. After six weeks of mechanical training at Hendricks Field, Florida, he entered

radio school at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, and took an eight weeks course. He was then on operational flights as Assistant Radio Operator flying out from El Paso, Texas. Then he was assigned as a radio operator and ball turret gunner on a Flying Fortress. He was given advanced training at Rapid City, South Dakota, and at Salina, Kansas.

Paul was home for a short furlough in January, 1943, and then returned to Salina, Kansas, and was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

In February, 1943, he went overseas and landed in England. It was from there that he made the supreme sacrifice a little more than one month later.

Major General J. A. Ulio, The Adjutant General, wrote to Mr. and Mrs. Kyes:

"May the knowledge that he made the supreme sacrifice in defense of his home and country be a source of sustaining comfort to you."

Personal Characteristics

Paul was five feet six inches tall, medium in weight, and had black hair and blue eyes and a dark skin.

His hobby was music. He played the trumpet in the school band. He liked to read and spent hours at home engaged in these pleasures. If he went out, he preferred to go where he could hear good music.

Paul attended the North Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo and was a member of the Church School and was baptized in that Church. He was very faithful in his attendance and when but a lad would go twice each Sunday.

He was quiet in manner and adhered to the precepts and example taught and set him by his parents.

Paul's earthly life was short but well lived and those who knew him appreciated his sterling worth. His many friends count themselves much richer for having known him.

Note -

Paul Edward's paternal great grandmother, Mrs. Theodore Kyes wrote a poem about 1900 A. D. entitled, "Prairieville School Bell Story." This bell was purchased in New York City for the Leonard Slater Mission for the Ottawa Indians, and the mission buildings were located approximately where the buildings of the Lockshore Farm now stand. A copy of the poem can be found in one of the volumes of the Historical Directory in connection with the story of Leonard Slater.



Edmand E. Labadie

Edmund Eugene Labadie

EDMUND EUGENE LABADIE

1868 - 1943

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Edmund Eugene Labadie was born May 19, 1868, at Mattawan, Michigan, son of Joseph and Octavia Labadie of French ancestry. He had an older brother, Frederick, and a sister, Minnie, who died in childhood. Edmund was the youngest child in the family, and the last to pass away.

The Labadie family had once lived in Detroit and moved from there to Mattawan. Grandfather Labadie, whose Christian name was Gregory, once owned the land in Kalamazoo where St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church now stands. The family was a highly respected one.

Edmund Eugene Labadie attended school at Mattawan and also studied telegraphy at the railway depot there.

He possessed a keen appreciation of Art and for that reason became a salesman for a portrait painter. At one time he opened an art store in Houston, Texas. Later he returned to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and was married to Miss Maud Inez Munson September 2, 1897. She was born December 5, 1870.

Mr. and Mrs. Labadie began housekeeping in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he had opened an art store on West Michigan avenue, handling artist's supplies, pictures and many novelties.

Being interested in the welfare of his city, he served as alderman in 1910 - 1912. He had been a member of the Elks lodge since 1902 and during his long residence of more than fifty years he held practically all the offices of the Order, including that of secretary, in which office he served for ten years.

Mr. Labadie was a man of fine appearance. He was five feet, seven inches in height, with black hair and eyes. He was a man of integrity and honor, charitable in all his judgments and generous toward all good causes. His personality was characterized by his cheerful optimism and kindness of spirit. His motto was "Live and let live," and in that manner he lived at peace with neighbors and friends.

To his home life Mr. Labadie brought devotion, consideration and outstanding companionship. For the last twenty years of his life, Mr. and Mrs. Labadie lived at 108 East Cedar street. It was from this home, after a short illness, that death came to Edmund Eugene Labadie January 25, 1943.

Funeral services were conducted January 27, 1943 by the Reverend John Perrin, D. D., a Congregational minister and life long friend of the family, and burial was in the family lot in Maple Grove cemetery, Mattawan, Michigan.

A man such as Mr. Labadie lives on in the lives he has influenced and in the hearts of his devoted wife and his many friends.

This was written in 1943.



L. H. Robinson

William LaCrone

W I L L I A M L A C R O N E

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William L. LaCrone, former superintendent of city parks and forestry, died at his home, 1015 Gull Street, January 28, 1935, after an illness of four weeks. He was 62 years of age and had been an employee of the city since 1911. For 22 years he had served as sexton of Riverside Cemetery, a position he held at the time of his death.

Mr. LaCrone had much to do with the development of the city's parks and playgrounds. During the time he was superintendent the property used for such purposes nearly tripled in size until at the present time the area includes nearly 600 acres. A number of parks had been added, including Milham park of 100 acres, and Upjohn park, more recently acquired. These were developed under the guidance and direction of Mr. LaCrone. Many playgrounds also were added.

Mr. LaCrone was one of the organizers and served as first president of the Michigan State Cemetery Association.

He was born at Delhi, Iowa, July 30, 1872, and moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, with his parents when five years of age. He resided there until 1893

when he came to Kalamazoo to visit his uncle, Dr. Oliver LaCrone and decided to remain here. He was first employed at the Kalamazoo State Hospital where he remained for six years. He then worked for a milk concern for several years after which he was with the Henderson-Ames Company for 11 years.

Mr. LaCrone entered employment with the City May 11, 1911, and remained continuously as a municipal official thereafter. He was first superintendent of Riverside Cemetery and a year or two after his appointment was given charge of all Kalamazoo parks. When ill health forced him to retire from active park service, LeRoy Gilbert was appointed park commissioner.

Mr. LaCrone's health had been failing for more than two years, at which time he suffered an illness which confined him to his home for several weeks. He later improved in condition and again assumed his duties with the park department. Sometime later, however, he became in a weakened condition and was forced to relinquish some of his duties.

January 1, 1934, Mr. LaCrone, at his own request, was relieved of the active duties of park commissioner but retained full charge of Riverside Cemetery, of which he had been sexton for many years. He, with the aid of his wife and two experienced

employees, carried on the executive and administrative work at Riverside Cemetery, oftentimes while he was forced to lie in bed. He served during the last year in an advisory capacity in the park department.

Mr. LaCrone's outstanding achievement was the development of Milham and Upjohn parks, both of which were acquired by the city while he was park commissioner.

While he prided himself in the beautification and landscaping of Kalamazoo's parks, he took no less pride in the development and maintenance of Riverside Cemetery, of which he had full charge in addition to his park work. Under his direction, Riverside Cemetery became known as one of the most beautiful and best managed municipal burial plots in Michigan.

Mr. LaCrone organized and developed the city forestry department, recommending its establishment to the city commission.

He landscaped the new City Hall property, and while he could not give his services privately, he counseled many citizens relative to landscaping of private homes.

He was known throughout the state as a horticulturist of note and he loved flowers and shrubs.

He made a scientific study of the plant world and experimented in grafting, plant nurture, and the development of shrubs not common to this state. His one outstanding achievement in the field of plant development was the successful culturing of the famed Lotus Lily, which flourished for many years in Sunset Lake at Vicksburg but which could not be grown elsewhere until Mr. LaCrone transplanted some of the flowers in a pool at Riverside Cemetery.

Mr. LaCrone won recognition in the state park association and the Michigan Cemetery Association, and he held offices in both organizations. He was host to these two organizations at state conventions in Kalamazoo on several occasions.

His development of playgrounds for children was another outstanding achievement. He expressed keen love for children and they were among his closest friends.

Mr. LaCrone was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 22, Kalamazoo chapter R. A. M. and Peninsula Commandry.

The city commission officially designated the North Side park, Paterson and William streets and Cobb avenue, formerly generally known as Everard park, as the William A. LaCrone Playground, July 29,

1935 and the same was dedicated August 20, 1935
with appropriate ceremonies.

(The above was written in 1935)

Oliver Burton Lambert



O L I V E R B U R T O N L A M B E R T

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Sergeant Oliver Burton Lambert, 36974146, was killed in action on February 28, 1945, while the 87th Infantry Division to which he belonged was advancing near Ormont, Germany. His body was buried in Belgium, after appropriate services at which a Catholic Chaplain officiated.

Birth and Education

He was born in Martin, Michigan, July 20, 1918, son of Floyd and Leta Kelso Lambert of French, Scotch and Irish ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Lambert reside now, in 1946, at Comstock, Michigan. They also became the parents of:

Rosetta, who resides in Comstock, Michigan;

Olive and Oliver, twins - Olive married Steve Karony and resides in Mattawan, Michigan;

Thomas, who married Ann Oswainy and is a veteran and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Gerald, who married Helen Harring and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Vernon, who is in the United States Navy;

Elmer, who resides in Comstock, Michigan;

Clayton, who resides in Comstock, Michigan;

Franklin, who resides in Comstock, Michigan; and

Philip, who resides in Comstock, Michigan.

While Oliver was young the family moved to Winchester, Idaho, and when he was a young man they came to Paw Paw, Michigan. Oliver received his schooling in these communities. For a time he was in northern Michigan in a Civilian Conservation Camp. In October, 1942, he came to Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Marriage

July 24, 1937, Oliver Burton Lambert was married to Antoinette Sukach of Polish and Russian ancestry, whose parents were George and Julia Peters Sukach. They also became the parents of:

Marion, who married Joseph Day and resides in Chicago, Illinois;

Walter, who married Marguerite Goss and resides in Ypsilanti, Michigan; and

Estelle, who married Wilbert Vizensky and resides in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Lambert began housekeeping in Hartford, Michigan, where they resided for three years and then moved to Paw Paw, Michigan, where they lived for a year. In October, 1942, they moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and resided for a time on Oxford street. Mrs. Lambert and the children reside now on Regent street.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Lambert became the parents of:

David Lynn, born [redacted];

Julie Mae, born [REDACTED]; and

Oliver Thomas, born October 2, 1944.

Oliver Burton Lambert was drafted into the United States army April 27, 1944, spent ten weeks in Fort Sheridan and then went to Fort McClellan, Alabama, for basic training. After a twelve day furlough he went to Fort Meade, Maryland, point of embarkation. He was assigned to the 346th Infantry of the 87th Division of the Third Army and was in the fighting in France, Belgium and Luxemburg.

Mrs. Lambert heard from her husband by phone from New York December 18, 1944, and his last letter was dated February 25, 1945.

Personal Characteristics

Oliver Burton Lambert was five feet ten inches tall and weighed about one hundred seventy pounds. He had brown hair and blue eyes.

He liked to farm, but he worked in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the factory of the Checker Cab Company.

He enjoyed swimming and hunting for sport. In political interest he was a Democrat. He and his wife attended the St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church.

He liked horses and enjoyed working with them. He was always smiling, was kind, industrious and hard working, and was loved by all who knew him.

He was a loving father, a kind husband and all round good citizen and neighbor.

Brigadier General, U. S. Army, Commanding,
John L. McKee, wrote:

"He did his duty splendidly and was loved and admired by all who knew him. We will not forget.

"He gave his life in battle in the service of his country - these simple words cannot lighten our sorrow, but they bring great pride and inspiration to us all."

"A beautiful adventure thine today,

Old ways made new, all changed within a trice,-

I try to see you, dear, walk tall and straight

Beneath the rain-bowed arch of Paradise."



Katherine Marker Landes

Katherine Marker Landes

K A T H E R I N E M A R K E R L A N D E S

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Katherine L. Marker was born February 20, 1864 at Ilion, Herkimer County, New York. Her father, Louis Marker, was born December 9, 1834, in Prussia, Germany and came to America with his parents at the age of nine. They settled in Moorehouseville, New York, where they engaged in the lumber business. Her mother, Charlotte Cave, was born October 12, 1832 in Needingworth, Huntingshire, England. She came to America with her parents at the age of fourteen, taking seven weeks to cross the Atlantic after having been blown several hundred miles off their course and only miraculously escaping shipwreck. These two, Louis Marker and Charlotte Cave, parents of Katherine Marker, were married October 4, 1857 in Oneida County, New York. At this time they operated a hotel in the Adirondacks, near Moorehouseville. They left there and came to Michigan, settling for a time in Mattawan, VanBuren County, where their first son, William Albert Marker, was born October 18, 1858 and died March 31, 1935. In 1859, however, they went back to New York and took up a farm in Oneida County

where another son was born named Charles Frederick Marker, November 29, 1860, and a daughter, Maria Matilda, July 12, 1862 and, as stated above, Katherine L. Marker on February 20, 1864.

In 1865, when Katherine was a year old, they returned to Michigan, making their permanent home in Kalamazoo. Here two sons were born, George Washington Marker, November 4, 1869 and Louis Shakespeare Marker, December 25, 1873, died January 22, 1920. In their early days in Kalamazoo they were engaged in truck farming, being one of the first to raise celery and tomatoes. Her mother called the tomatoes "Love Apples", the term used in England. They picked cranberries on the land that is now known as the Kleinstuck reserve. Charlotte Marker passed on March 26, 1901, and Louis, the father, followed November 25, 1908. Katherine L. Marker attended the old Union School in Kalamazoo and, although her education was limited, she was well read and spent her entire life time in reading worthwhile literature and taking every opportunity to improve and increase her education. In her youth and early womanhood she was a member of St. Luke's Church.

Katherine L. Marker was married November 25, 1891 to David Wills Landes and to them were born four children: the first one died in infancy; Helen

Francis, born January 26, 1895 and married Eugene F. Shields of Comstock, Michigan; Harold David, born May 28, 1898 and married Irene Abshire of Kalamazoo; Charlotte Marie, born May 30, 1901, married A. W. Kellner, a dentist of Chicago.

Mrs. Landes became affiliated with the Socialist Party as early as 1907 and remained liberal in her political views, as well as her religious views, the remainder of her life. She had many friends who found her delightfully entertaining and inspiring to talk with and, because of her experience, vision and understanding, she was counselled by many.

There never was a finer and more loving Mother and we believe this places her among the truly great.

Katherine L. Landes passed on December 15, 1936. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend A. Gordon Fowkes and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Mrs. Harriet Larch



Mrs Harriet F. Larch

H. Robinson
1904

H A R R I E T C O O P E R L A R C H

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Harriet Freeborn Cooper was born on a farm in Slippery Rock township, Butler county, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1874, daughter of Milton and Maria Cooper. She had the following brothers and sisters: Mary Elizabeth, Joseph Lincoln, William Detmore, Clarissa Cornelia, Sarah Barbara, Salena Caroline, and Francis Nathaniel.*

When Harriet was fourteen years of age she had completed the work in the rural school and entered the State Teachers College at Slippery Rock. While there she was a fellow student with Hilda and Dwight Morrow, the latter afterward the ambassador from the United States to Mexico and the father of Ann, who became the wife of the noted flyer, Charles A. Lindbergh. Dwight Morrow and his sister were often visitors at the Cooper home and Dwight was especially fond of the buttermilk which was generally available at the Cooper farm. The college had never had so young a student as Harriet at the time of her entrance and found it necessary to write to the state board for instructions concerning her classification.

*Details concerning the family can be found in the record of her sister, Mrs. Christley, in this volume.

When she was fifteen she received an A 1 Teacher's Certificate and taught a few weeks as a substitute for her sister.

In 1891, she went to live with her sister, Mrs. William L. Christley, on a farm near Ambia, Indiana, and was there about two and one-half years.

February 7, 1894, she was married to Walter H. Larch, son of Aaron and Elizabeth Crabb Larch, of Pennsylvania Dutch descent on his father's side and his mother was a Hoosier. He was born July 8, 1869 and died April 20, 1909, with burial in Mendon, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Larch began housekeeping near Ambia, Indiana, where for twelve years they resided on a farm and then bought a farm between Mendon and Colon, Michigan, where they lived for two years and then moved into Mendon and resided there one year.

Following her husband's death in 1909, Mrs. Larch went to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in June and with her mother and youngest sister lived at the corner of North and Burdick streets and other places until 1915, when Mrs. Larch purchased the home at 917 Neumaier court and has lived there ever since.

Mrs. Larch took a three year course in general nursing in Jamestown, New York, and a six weeks

special course in the care of women and children and from 1909 until 1913 she did the work of a visiting nurse and deaconess for the City Mission.

In 1913, she became matron at the Young Men's Christian Association Building in Kalamazoo and is employed in that position at the time of this writing in 1941. In March 1940, she was given a recognition banquet and party in honor of her twenty-seven years of service.

Mrs. Larch was brought up as a Presbyterian. The following is the story of her experience as she tells it:

"When I was eleven years of age I became very much interested in the church and religion. I wanted to confess Christ as my Savior and unite with the church. But the Presbyterian Church had a rule that they would not accept members under eighteen years of age. And the Methodists would not accept members under twenty-one years of age.

"I was very much burdened in my mind, wanting to make a public confession and be able to call myself a Christian. I worried until my mother thought I was ill and wanted to send for a doctor. Then I said to her, I want to be a Christian. I was not satisfied because I had not made an open confession and I could not help my schoolmates until I was recognized as a professing Christian.

"My mother cried and said, 'You are a Christian, my child.' I felt better for a time and tried to get the boys and girls to go to Sunday school, but they replied, 'You have no right to ask us, because you don't belong to church yourself.'

"This discouraged me and when I was in my twelfth year I did not want to go to church because I thought the church did not want me.

"It was the custom of the Presbyterian Church in Slippery Rock to precede communion with a week of preaching services. I attended and the last day an invitation was given, but I made no move. After the service was dismissed the pastor, the Reverend J. L. Cotton, came to me and said, 'Harriet, you have broken my heart again.'

"When I was thirteen my sister Salena and I attended one of the services which were held for a week preceding Easter and we were the only ones attending from our family at that particular service. My sister said, 'You are going to accept Jesus as your Savior today, aren't you?' I replied, Yes, I am. Sister said, 'I have been praying for you. Don't sit still when the invitation is given, even if they don't take you into the church.'

"When the invitation was given I arose and a woman near pulled me down and said, 'What are you doing? You don't know what you're doing! Sit down. You shouldn't be here without your mother.' I started down the aisle and my Sunday school teacher came to me and said, 'You don't know what you're doing. Where is your mother?' By that time the pastor had reached me and led me to the front seat in which was a young lady of eighteen and she said, 'You might as well go on home. They won't take you into the church.'

"There was a meeting of the session immediately following the service to question applicants for membership. They proceeded to question the eighteen year old lady and when they were through with her the session was dismissed with the statement, 'There is but this one to question.' The pastor said, 'No, there is another.' One member of the session had been appointed guardian of the minor children, including myself, after the father's death. He spoke up and said, 'She doesn't know what she is doing. She hasn't asked me whether or not she can be a Christian.' The pastor said,

'I'll question her myself in your presence. Unless you accept her confession, my resignation will be handed in.' Our family physician, Dr. Benjamin Parson, a member of the session, came to me and said, 'Don't give up. If we cannot take you into the church, we will accept you as a Christian anyway. If the session will not accept you, we will take the matter to the presbytery,' which they did. The presbytery consented to my being received as a member of the church and changed the age limit for admission to membership to fifteen. The session decided that I would not be received publicly, but privately at a meeting of the session.

"My brother wanted to join the church when he was sixteen, before the age limit had been changed, but was refused, and never found his way into the church until he was sixty years old.

"There was no young people's society in the church and the young men and women wanted to organize a Christian Endeavor. I was asked to help and did. But there were difficulties. The women were not allowed to speak in meetings and the consent of the session was given with the understanding that the public utterances of the young women should be limited to reading verses of Scripture and none but members of the church were to be allowed to do that or take any part in the meetings. As a consequence the meetings consisted mostly of singing and reading passages from the Bible. The young men were the only ones who could offer prayer audibly. However, gradually the restrictions were relaxed or disregarded and the young ladies as well as the young men took part and a flourishing Christian Endeavor resulted.

"The next day after I was converted I went to school and was so happy that I seemed to be walking on air. When I arrived the older scholars were not playing as usual and when I said to them, Come, let us go and play, they said, 'We don't want to play. We want you to tell us about being a Christian.' None of them had been attending church or Sunday school. So I started telling them the best I could and had not finished when the bell rang. At the

noon recess we gathered again under a big oak tree and I talked some more. Three, one boy and two girls, accepted the Savior. The next week two girls confessed Christ. All five were older than I. I went to the pastor and told him about it. He talked with them and they were received into the church. I told Bible stories to the younger children and got them to go to Sunday school. When I was back there in 1936, three of the five were still active and their families were also members of the church. The boy had become an elder and his son was an officer in the church.

"When I was in college the pastor asked me to work with the students and get them to attend church. So many students responded that the older members were a bit disturbed and the pastor had a hard time getting a Sunday school class organized and for a time had to teach it himself.

"When I lived in Indiana I helped to organize a Sunday school in a school house and as a result the Locust Grove Church was built and turned over to the Methodist Annual Conference.

"For a time I did evangelistic work with the Reverend D. L. Moody of Columbus, Ohio, and with Dr. Curry, a Baptist evangelist, assisting in meetings in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Coldwater, and other places.

"When I came to Kalamazoo I united with the North Presbyterian Church and was a Sunday school teacher there for thirteen years. Later I had my membership transferred to the First Methodist Church and for a time I taught a class in the Wilson Memorial Methodist Church.

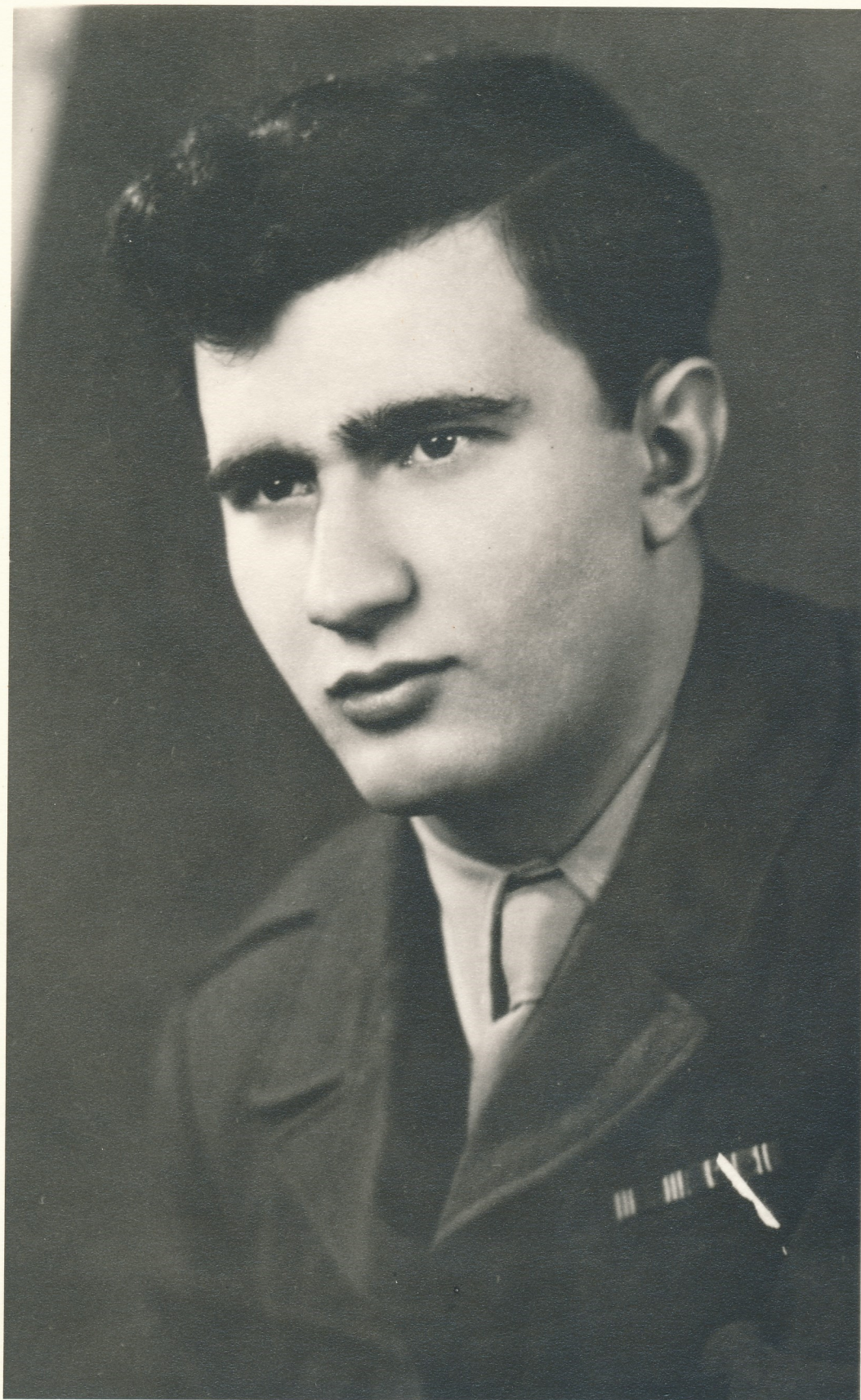
"I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior and my Redeemer. He not only fills my soul with peace and joy in serving Him, but He wants to see love and beauty in me.

"I believe in every soul there is a store of beauty that must find expression and I believe one of the finest tests of the quality of a soul is the ability to convey blessings to others and let the beauty of Jesus shine out

above our own personality that others will see Him only and learn to love Him and glorify His name.

"I know that a smile is worth while and the smile of a Christian is the sunbeam of the soul; and where there is a sunbeam there is a beauty that only the Heavenly Father can give. My daily thought is to keep the smile and the beauty he has placed in my heart that it may help some one over the rough pathway of life and make the burden lighter. He has taken care of me all these years and I know He will never forsake me."

Salvatore (Sam) Lascaia



S A L V A T O R E (S A M) L A S C A L A

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Private First Class Sam Lascala was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, July 23, 1926, son of Sam Lascala, Senior, who was born in Sambiase Provincia, Catanzaso, Italy, December 20, 1903, and came to New York when a young man. Later he went to East Liverpool, Ohio, where he had a sister, and afterward he moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he met and married Anna Anselmo. They were married by Monsignor John R. Hackett in the St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church September 19, 1925.

Anna Anselmo was born in Burgio, Palermo, Sicily, Italy, July 4, 1909, and came with her parents to Illinois when she was three years old. Later the family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan.

When their baby Salvatore, generally called "Sam", was a little more than four months old the family visited a brother in Utica, New York, and while there the young husband and father took pneumonia and died December 5, 1926.

The young widow and baby returned to her parents in Kalamazoo, and on July 28, 1928, she was

married to a brother of her former husband, Chris Lascala, who was born in Italy March 3, 1896, and came to the United States with his uncle, while yet a young man.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Lascala became the parents of:

Nathan Joseph, called "Babe", born October 3, 1929;
Anthony Louis, called "Tony", born [REDACTED],
[REDACTED];
Nancy Marie, born September 19, 1935; and
Louis Joseph, born [REDACTED].

Young Sam attended St. Augustine School through the grades and was graduated from that High School in 1944, liking music as well as any of his studies.

After graduation he worked for the Sutherland Paper Company in the summer and left Kalamazoo November 3, 1944, for service in the United States Army. He was trained as an infantryman at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, until Christmas, 1944, and then had a delayed en route furlough for six days, which he spent in Kalamazoo with his parents.

He then went to Fort Meade, Maryland, and then was shipped overseas to Germany. He was stationed for a time in Belgium. He was in combat and stayed to the end of the war. He won three Battle Stars. After Germany surrendered, Sam

remained with the army of occupation. His last letter home was dated July 3, 1946, in which he stated that he was going on a picnic the following day. What occurred that 4th of July, on his mother's birth-day, is described in a letter written by Major Albert H. Byrne as follows:

"The accident occurred in Ris Orangis, France, on the afternoon of July 4th, 1946. Sam, and all the other members of Detachment "D," were swimming in the Seine River. Sam, according to the medical authorities, suffered an attack of cramps. His friends saw him struggling to stay above the surface, and they did all in their power to reach him, but were unable to do so."

Angelo C. DeVivo wrote:

"After being in the water about fifteen minutes, Sam started to swim toward the opposite bank. Only a few feet from his goal, he suddenly called for help, and although his comrades immediately set out to aid him, he had disappeared before they could reach him. The under current of the river was so strong, that even though the fellows searched for more than seven hours afterwards, they were still unable to locate him. In fact, it took two days of constant searching in their off duty time, before his body was recovered."

Sam's body was buried in France with a complete funeral service, but later it was shipped to Kalamazoo and arrived September 12, 1946, the first Veteran's body to be returned.

Personal Characteristics

Sam was of medium height and weight and had dark curly hair and large brown eyes. He was one of the handsomest young men of Kalamazoo, but with his humble manner, he kept his head.

Sam liked all clean sports, including tennis and baseball and won his athlete's letter in football and basketball. While in Belgium he organized a basketball and a baseball team and the soldiers at once elected him captain.

One great love of his school days was music. He studied the violin from the time he was eight years old, played for four years in the St. Augustine orchestra and for four years in an independent orchestra directed by Bud Barrett. He also had a good singing voice but preferred instrumental music. He was fond of dancing and was a graceful figure on the floor.

He was a jolly, pleasant boy, the life of the family and loved all the children in the neighborhood. Sam sent home snap shots taken in Germany, showing himself surrounded by children. On the snaps he had written, doubtless laughing as he wrote, "This is after I gave them candy."

He was courteous to older people, loving in his home life, thought the world of his uncle who became his affectionate step-father, who loved him as much as he did his own.

Sam had an especial tenderness for his curly headed baby brother, Louis, (Red), and always asked about him in his letters. This so impressed

the four year old boy that when he took his nap he would ask for "Sammy's letter" in which he was mentioned by name. Sam was devoted to all his brothers and sister, and especially to his mother.

He was baptized and confirmed in St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church and served as altar boy several years; was a member of Holy Name Society.

The Class of 1944, of which Sam was a member, showed their esteem when he died with a floral offering of a Cross more than six feet high.

One of Sam's closest pals was Kenneth Midling. They had planned their civilian life together, they entered the armed service together, planned to go to college together and were with each other until shortly before Sam's death.

Kenneth's mother wrote to Mrs. Lascale a letter from which the following is taken:

"I can't begin to know how this will affect Ken. I keep wondering if he knows it and if he doesn't how he will be told and what a shock it will be for him. Ken, with his easy-going way, was good for Sammy and Sammy, with the deep faith of his religion, was good for Ken.

"We both want you to know that we are grateful that Ken had the real friendship of a boy as fine as your son and know that he will cherish the memory of that friendship as long as he lives."

Major Albert H. Byrne wrote of Sam:

"Sam was a superior soldier and a splendid example of American manhood . . . he has been

a credit to you, to us, and to his country."

Paul Mormando, one of Sam's buddies, wrote:

"Don, Tony and I are all Italians and are mighty proud of it. . . were Sammy's best buddies. . . We all stuck together as brothers until God's voice came out of heaven and said, 'It's time to split up, brothers.' . . I was the last fellow to go to Church with Sammy at Notre Dame Cathedral. I must say he was a great Catholic."

At the time of his death Sam was due to come home soon and was very happy over that. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

His body lies in Mt. Olivet cemetery in Kalamazoo, Michigan, but the memory of this fine lad will ever live in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Addison Julius Latta



A D D I S O N J U L I U S L A T T A

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Addison Julius Latta was born where Maple Hills Country Club is now, west of Kalamazoo and lived in that vicinity all his life. He was the son of Lois Orton and Albert Latta, born January 8, 1859.

Addison Latta was raised on the farm and was a farmer as long as he lived. He graduated from the high school in Kalamazoo in the class of 1877.

On the 30th day of March, 1892, Mr. Latta married Luella B. Washburn. That year he bought what was known as the Goodrich place, an eighty acre farm adjoining his parents' 120-acre holding, and moved there with his bride. Mrs. Latta's parents were Mr. and Mrs. S..F. Washburn, and it was at their farm, east of Kalamazoo, where the wedding ceremony was performed. All their married life they lived in the home to which they went following their wedding. They were the parents of one daughter, Laura May, who was born January 31, 1894, and married A. H. Gorham. They reside in the home which her parents occupied through the years.

Mr. Latta was a faithful member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo. He passed

away July 3, 1931. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend D. S. Coors, and burial was made in Mountain Home Cemetery. At the morning worship on a following Sunday the following resolution was adopted by the congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church:

"As we look back over the history of Kalamazoo Methodism there appear the names of a small group of faithful pioneers whose sacrificial efforts laid the foundation for what Methodism means to the city and community life of today. Among the outstanding families, a faithful member of whom we would record our appreciation is our beloved brother, Addison J. Latta, called to his heavenly home. To his faithful wife and family, we extend our heartfelt sympathy."

(The foregoing was written in 1936)



Mrs. Addison Latta

L U E L L A W A S H B U R N L A T T A

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Luella B. Washburn was born in Lysander, New York, December 16, 1857, daughter of Stephen and Adaline Washburn, who, in 1867, came to Kalamazoo county, Michigan, and thus became old pioneer residents. They lived on the Brook Farm on Douglas Avenue for one winter and then bought a farm on East Avenue in Kalamazoo, where they lived for many years.

Luella attended the Gull Road School and later was graduated from the old Union School in Kalamazoo. She lived with her parents until she was married on March 29, 1892, to Addison Julius Latta and went to live at the Latta home west of Kalamazoo where the Maple Hills Country Club now is. About a year later she and her husband bought the old Goodrich Farm adjoining the old Latta homestead and resided there the remainder of her life.

Mr. and Mrs. Latta became the parents of Laura May, who married A. H. Gorham and became the mother of: Virginia, born July 18, 1919, married William Gildea, July 30, 1937 and became the mother of

LUCIE A. WASHBURN LATTA

1887 - 1941

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Lucie A. Washburn was born in Lyndebury, New York, December 16, 1887, daughter of Stephen and Adeline Washburn, who, in 1887, came to Kalamazoo county, Michigan, and thus became old pioneer residents. They lived on the Brock Farm on Douglas Avenue for one winter and then bought a farm on East Avenue in Kalamazoo, where they lived for many years.

Lucie attended the Gulf Road School and later was graduated from the old Union School in Kalamazoo. She lived with her parents until she was married on March 29, 1902, to Addison Julius Latta and went to live at the Latta home west of Kalamazoo where the Maple Hill Country Club now is. About a year later she and her husband bought the old Goodrich farm adjoining the old Latta homestead and resided there the remainder of her life.

Mr. and Mrs. Latta became the parents of Laura May, who married A. H. Gorham and became the mother of: Virginia, born July 18, 1919, married William Glides, July 30, 1937 and became the mother of

Jerry, born [REDACTED], resides near her parents; Betty, born July 7, 1921, married Harry Gildea November 30, 1938 and became the mother of Sharon Marie, born [REDACTED] and Burline B., born [REDACTED], resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan; J. Louise, born December 20, 1923, at home; Robert L., born October 28, 1926, is a student in Central High School in Kalamazoo; Dorothy, born June 3, 1929, lives with her parents; Ruth Mary, born September 7, 1930, lives with her parents; also Marjorie Ann, born [REDACTED].

Mrs. Latta lived a rather quiet life, happy in her home and church. She was a member of the First Methodist Church in Kalamazoo and belonged to the women's societies and was interested in their activities although for the last five years of her life she was an invalid and practically blind. She was also a charter member of the Young Women's Christian Association. She enjoyed tatting and crocheting and the piecing of many quilts which she gave to the church.

Death came to Mrs. Latta at the Brouwer Nursing Home at Plainwell, Michigan, at four o'clock Thursday morning July 31, 1941. She had been cared for there for the last two and one-half years.

The funeral was conducted by the Reverend L. M. Whitney and burial was in Mountain Home cemetery, Kalamazoo. The bearers were: Wilbur Hunting, Clair Brown, Cyril Root, Valentine Buckham, Allan Nichols, and Roy Buckham. This was written in 1941.

Miss Clara A. Latta



C L A R A A L A T T A

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Clara A. Latta was born on the farm which is now the Maple Hills Golf Club property, in Oshtemo township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, November 17, 1864, daughter of Albert and Lois Latta. She attended the Hurd school and the Grand Prairie school and remained at the Maple Hills home until her father died. She then made her home with her brothers, Myron and Addison, but eventually went to live with her sister, Mrs. William F. Montague, and resided there for twenty-four years.

While Clara was a girl of five or six years of age she was playing in the barn and fell and was injured so that her hearing was impaired and became worse and worse.

She was a member of the First Methodist Church in Kalamazoo, honorary member of the Ladies' Mutual Improvement club, and an active member of the Grand Prairie Literary Society. She was also a member of the Home Department of the Methodist Sunday school and her membership in the church dated from her childhood. She found much enjoyment in the

church circles. She was fond of flowers and music, enjoyed writing letters and reading religious literature. She took a great interest in children and was friendly with everyone. The hymns of the church were much enjoyed by her.

Death came to Miss Latta at the home of her niece, Miss Ida Montague, Townline road, three miles west of Kalamazoo, October 26, 1940. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Clarence E. Deal and burial was in Mountain Home cemetery, Kalamazoo. This was written in 1941.

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

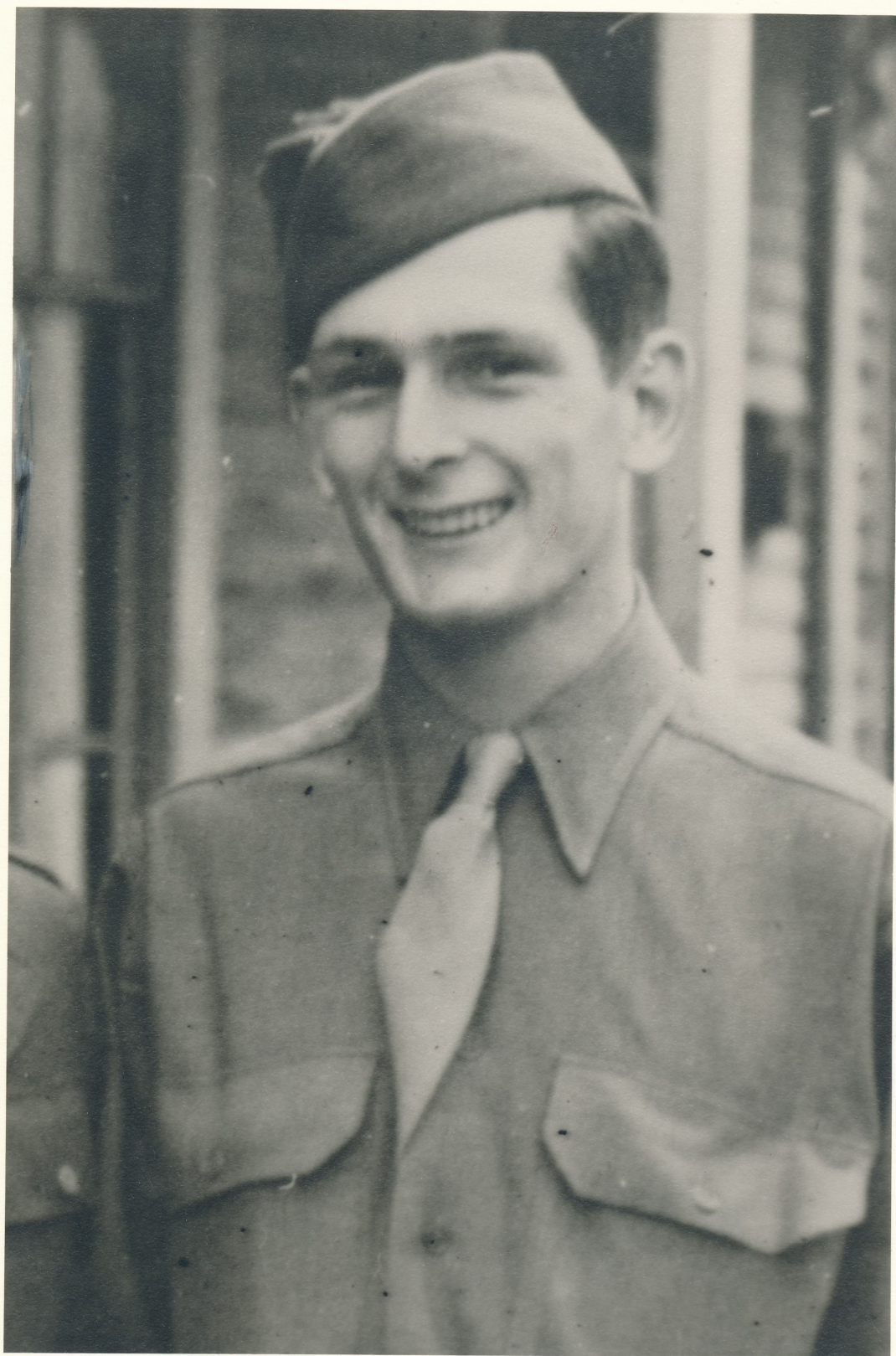
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the
boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time
and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

- Alfred Tennyson

Leo Charles Leathers



LEO CHARLES LEATHERS

1921 - 1944

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Staff Sergeant Leo Charles Leathers was killed in action at Tarquinice, Italy, June 26, 1944.

His body was buried in an United States Military cemetery, Plot C, Row 7, Grave 372. This cemetery was located about five miles from Tarquinice, a little town in Central Italy.

Staff Sergeant Leo Charles Leathers was attached to the 361st Infantry, 91st Division of the Third Army, which later was combined with the Fifth Army. It is thought that he was a replacement and went into combat June 2, 1944, in the battle of Rome. His serial number was 36405322.

He was called into service November 2, 1942, and received his basic training at Camp White, Oregon, and had further training at Camp Adair, Oregon. He had a furlough in March 1943. In April, 1944, he was shipped overseas from a point of embarkation in Virginia and landed in North Africa. Before going overseas he was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

Birth and Education

He was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 13,

1921, son of Henry S. Leathers, who was born in Van Buren county, Michigan, August 12, 1878, of Dutch ancestry.

Leo's mother was Fern Owen Leathers, who was also born in Van Buren county, Michigan, and the date of her birth was March 14, 1890.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Leathers were married in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and made their home at 218 East Vine street, where they reside now in 1946.

Leo had a half-sister, Gladys, who married Dewey Randall and they reside in Detroit, Michigan.

Leo began his education in the brick school on the corner of South Burdick and Cork streets, where he completed the work of the first eight grades. He did the work of the ninth grade at the Milwood School and then entered Central High School in Kalamazoo and was graduated with the class of 1939.

He was then employed by the Kalamazoo Stove and Furnace Company in the multigraphing department for about one year. He then was employed by his father in the Sherwin-Williams Paint Store on South Burdick street until he was called into the armed service of his country.

Marriage

While Leo was home on furlough in the spring

of 1943 he was married to his only sweetheart, Ida May Miller of Bangor, Michigan, who was born May 26, 1924, near Bangor, daughter of Richard Miller. Ida May had three sisters and two brothers.

Mrs. Leo Leathers stayed with her husband in Oregon until he left for overseas, then she joined the WACS June 22, 1944. She received her basic training at the United States WAC base at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and at Romulus Field, Michigan. She had been in service only four days when she received word of her husband's death. She served in clerical work overseas in Karachi, India, and remained in service in India until she was honorably discharged in December 1945.

Leo was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal which was given to his mother.

Personal Characteristics

He was five feet seven inches tall, very slender, but strong and wiry and athletic.

He was an expert with guns and invested his money in rifles of various kinds. He went deer hunting in the fall of two different years and the last time he got his deer the first morning he was out - a 225 pound buck.

He enjoyed the movies, played the drums, and

engaged in sand lot baseball. He liked to see the major league games in Detroit and enjoyed magazines, especially those featuring air planes and hunting.

Leo selected a few close friends for companionship and brought the boys home with him for lunch or supper and he liked to play with his dog.

He did not drink intoxicants and he did not smoke. He attended the Bethany Reformed Church and enjoyed the worship service even more than the Sunday school.

Here was a lad who was good to elderly people and listened to them with deference and kindness.

He was thoughtful and considerate of his parents and never hurt them in word or deed. He remembered his mother's anniversaries with flowers and his wife was admonished to visit his maternal grandmother "every week." He loved his home and family and was a true son and husband.

Leo went out to do his duty in his country's great need for men and in doing so gave his life. He said, "If I don't come back, remember I did just what I wanted to do." To a buddy he said, "Looks like some of us don't get home. If I don't get home again, may be I'll have helped somebody else."

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a

man lay down his life for his friends."

On October 15, 1943, while Leo was on maneuvers on a desert in Oregon, he wrote the following:

"DESERT SUNRISE"

"The desert sun rose clear and bright
After a cold and star clear night.
The sage all covered with frosty dew
Began to shine as the sun rose anew.

"A green clad figure rose from his bed
And walked to a fire glowing red.
A guard who was sitting there near by
Looked up and spoke, with a tired sigh.

"The figure sat near the embers of heat
To remove the cold from his aching feet.
More green clad figures came from their beds
And joined round the fire glowing red.

"The sun still rising, was working its way
Into the sky that was cloudy grey.
With the grey clouds forming around the sun,
A cool autumn day on the desert begun."

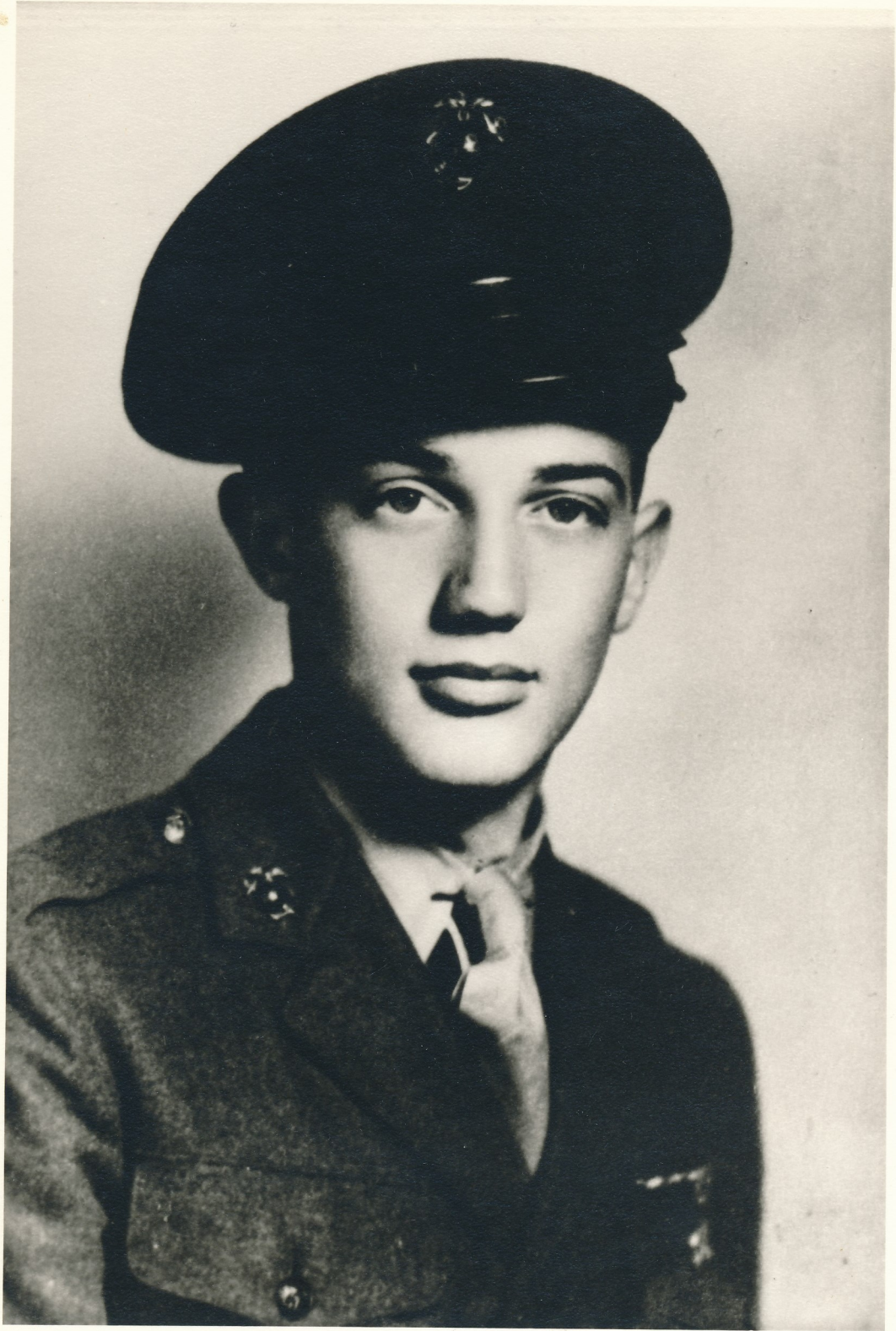
TAPS

"You'll never know the tragedy of growing old -
Of suffering or loneliness and pain,
Because your life so brief - was colorful and gay.
A life that knew no loss, but only gain,
And now we hear that you never will return again
To them who knew and loved you through the years.
A gallant soldier - just a youth - and we are
proud

Of you - although our eyes are dim with tears.
You left behind a chain of golden memories
To comfort those who cherished you from birth -
And life will never be completely desolate
While they possess these gifts of priceless
worth.

You made the greatest sacrifice a man can make,
You died - to make it safe for us to live.
And we salute you with a silent prayer today -
The best and only gift parents can give."

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Floyd Robert Lee



F L O Y D R O B E R T L E E

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Corporal Floyd Robert Lee was killed fighting in the Pacific war theatre July 10, 1944. He was a veteran in the campaign against the Japs, having seen action at Guadalcanal and Tarawa.

Birth and Education

He was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, February 22, 1924, son of Floyd Russell Lee, who was born in Muskegon, Michigan, and Myrel Garrison Lee, who was born in Three Rivers, Michigan. They were married in Kalamazoo, Michigan, by the Reverend John W. Dunning, D. D., then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. They became the parents also of:

Donelda Mae, born January 15, 1922, married Merle Harmon and they became the parents of Terry Lee [REDACTED], and reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan, at this time in 1946; and

Jack Russell, born June 12, 1925, married Patricia Paul and they reside with his parents at 915 Trimble avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Floyd Robert, commonly called "Bob", attended the Knollwood School through the beginners and the first grade, the McKinley School through the fourth

FLOYD ROBERT LEE

1924 - 1944

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Corporal Floyd Robert Lee was killed fighting in the Pacific war theatre July 10, 1944. He was a veteran in the campaign against the Japs, having seen action at Guadalcanal and Tarawa.

Birth and Education

He was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, February 22, 1924, son of Floyd Russell Lee, who was born in Muskegon, Michigan, and Myrel Garrison Lee, who was born in Three Rivers, Michigan. They were married in Kalamazoo, Michigan, by the Reverend John W.

Dunning, D. D., then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. They became the parents also of:

Donalda Mae, born January 15, 1928, married Marie Harmon and they became the parents of Terry Lee April 22, 1944, and reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan, at this time in 1946; and

Jack Russell, born June 12, 1932, married Patricia Paul and they reside with his parents at 915 Trimble Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Floyd Robert, commonly called "Bob", attended the Knollwood School through the beginners and the first grade, the McKinley School through the fourth

grade, and then went to the Vine Street and Central High Schools and would have graduated in June 1942 had he not enlisted in the Marines the preceding February. Bob left Kalamazoo February 19, 1942, and went to Detroit, Michigan, for induction. He was then sent to San Diego, California, for recruit training, after which he went to Camp Ellis, California. He received a certificate of graduation from the Communications School, also medals attesting that he was expert with rifle and bayonet. He was sent overseas to Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Makambo and Florida of the Solomon Islands.

The following excerpts from letters Bob wrote home tell something of his experience.

Concerning the invasion of Tarawa on the Gilbert Islands he wrote:

"It was really hell. I don't see how I managed to get through. I was in the third wave of the initial invasion.

"The boys were dropping all around us from machine gun and mortar fire.

"There were six of us who went ashore in our section. Two of us made it. I guess I am too ornery to get bumped off, but I consider myself very lucky.

"I came through with only two bruises and broke my watch. The bruises came from my trying to dive through the ground. I just couldn't get deep enough.

"The sniping was heavy the first couple of days, but we sure cleaned the Japs out.

"I was on the island four days and it seemed like four years. I hope I never have to go through another one like that.

"I am in a safe spot now and feel fine. Sleeping

in tents with wooden decks."

Bob was also with the same marine outfit to take part in the opening drive against the Japs in Guadalcanal the morning of August 8, 1942, and on August 11 he wrote:

"Dear Folks: Well, here it is a new day and I am feeling fine. A couple of days ago we were in a terrific battle at the Solomon Islands. We licked the tar out of the Japs, too. Don't worry about me as there isn't a thing the matter with me. Hope you are all feeling fine, too. While we were on the ship in the harbor at the Solomons, we were bombed three times by the Japs. We were bombed twice the first day and once the second. The first day, the ship I was on got one plane; the second day, five. We sure set the rising sun those two days. We landed on the islands of Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Makambo, and Florida. Lots of excitement, etc., but I am fine."

He was in Marine Corps Unit 245.

Following the Guadalcanal invasion Bob was hospitalized at Wellington, New Zealand, on account of malaria. After the Tarawa invasion he was stationed at Hilo, Hawaiian Islands, for rest and preparation for the invasion of Saipan, where he met his death about thirty minutes before the island was declared secured. While in New Zealand he was transferred to Headquarters Company, assigned to communications, laying lines and sometimes operating switch boards.

The following is an excerpt from a letter received by Mr. and Mrs. Lee concerning Bob's death:

"They (his outfit) had just moved up and Bob

and a number of other men went out to secure the area for their C. P. As they went down a hill at the north end of the island Bob and a fellow named Rogers separated and then Bob got shot. Then Rogers yelled for a corpsman and went over to where Bob was. Then before the corpsman got there Rogers yelled and said, 'Lee is dying.' Then the Japs shot Rogers."

Virgil P. Anderson wrote:

"Bob was a regular fellow. I am indeed glad to have been one of his many friends and it was a privilege to have worked with him. I was with him nearly six months. . . During that time, living in the same tent and working together, we got to be quite well acquainted, and, . . . he was held high in our esteem. May we offer our condolence to you."

Major P. H. Uhlinger, U. S. Marine Corps, wrote:

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Lee:

"I am directed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps to inform you that you are entitled to the Purple Heart and the enclosed Purple Heart Certificate which were posthumously awarded your son, the late Corporal Floyd R. Lee, U. S. Marine Corps, in the name of the President of the United States and by direction of the Secretary of the Navy. The Purple Heart which is being engraved will be forwarded to you within the next two months.

"You are also entitled to the enclosed copies of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the First Marine Division, Reinforced, for service in action against the enemy in the Solomon Islands, and the Second Marine Division, Reinforced, for service in action against the enemy on Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, and Presidential Unit Citation ribbon bar with two blue enameled stars, inasmuch as your son was a member of those organizations during the periods specified in the Citations, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal for his service in the Asiatic-Pacific Area. The medal will not be ready for issuance until six months after the war, at which time it is requested that you make application to this office for the award."

Personal Characteristics

Floyd Robert Lee was a tall boy, five feet ten

inches in height, and of average weight. His hair was dark brown, his eyes were blue and his face was radiant with good health, a clean life and an open heart. That was Bob.

He liked to ride his bicycle and engage in all clean sports, especially swimming. He enjoyed dancing to good music. He not only enjoyed good music, he played the trumpet in the Central High School Band, also the French horn, and sang in St. Luke's Boys Choir.

Bob was confirmed as a member of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo April 28, 1940. After graduating from the Boys Choir he joined the Acolyte Guild, assisting as altar boy and performing other duties as an acolyte. When he was in Hilo, Hawaii, he became acquainted with the rector there and assisted him as an acolyte.

Bob's warmth of affection was felt in the family circle. He was devoted to his parents and his brother and sister.

His body lies in grave 10, row 10, plot E, Second Marine Division Cemetery on Saipan in the Marianas, but the memory of his sterling character, his warm, friendly personality, abides in the hearts of his family and friends.

The poem on the following page expresses something of the feeling of those who loved him:

TAPS

"You'll never know the tragedy of growing old -
Of suffering or loneliness and pain,
Because your life so brief - was colorful and gay,
A life that knew no loss, but only gain.
And now we hear you never will return again
To them who knew and loved you through the years.
A gallant Marine - just a youth - and we are proud
Of you - although our eyes are dim with tears.
You left behind a chain of golden memories
To comfort those who cherished you from birth -
And life will never be completely desolate
While they possess these gifts of priceless worth.
You made the greatest sacrifice a man can make,
You died - to make it safe for us to live.
And we salute you with a silent prayer today -
The last and only gift that parents give."

Richard George Lester



R I C H A R D G E O R G E L E S T E R

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Richard George Lester was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 9, 1919, son of Leonard C. Lester, who was of Holland and English descent, and Leola Robles Lester, some of whose ancestors were Scotch and Irish.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lester were married in 1914 and also became the parents of:

Robert, who was born August 30, 1915, married Maxine Lohrburg and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Ruth Mary, born March 29, 1917, married Wallace Johnston and they became the parents of Richard in 1935 and Mary Lou in 1937 and reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Charles, born October 24, 1921, resides with his parents; and

Nettie Dell, born [REDACTED], married Benjamin DeBoer and they became the parents of Thomas November 18, 1945.

Richard attended the Recreation Park School and the Knollwood School and was graduated from the State High School in 1940.

He attended Western Michigan College of Education for two years and was then employed by the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company until he

enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to the infantry, May 19, 1942. He received basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and was stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where he successfully passed examination for the air service.

Richard received his pre-flight training at Santa Ana, California, primary training at Visalia, California, basic training at Lancaster, California, and his commission as Second Lieutenant at Luke Field, Arizona, January 7, 1944. He specialized in night flying and became a pilot on a P-61, known as the "Black Widow", a night plane.

Marriage

On November 12, 1943, Richard George Lester was married to Miss Helen Kirkpatrick by the Reverend A. C. Hetherington, pastor of the Portage Street Baptist Church. Richard was in Kalamazoo on furlough at the time. Helen was born [REDACTED], the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Kirkpatrick.

Helen accompanied her husband to Hammer Field, Fresno, California, and remained with him until his death in an airplane crash at Hammer Field December 2, 1944. He was to have left for overseas December 10. Mrs. Richard Lester accompanied the body of her husband to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and

made her home with his parents at 1437 Olmsted road.

Personal Characteristics

Richard George Lester was five feet eight inches tall, ruggedly built and was actively interested in athletic sports. He played on base ball teams at Recreation Park School, State High School and Western Michigan College of Education. He liked swimming and ice skating and trapping and went deer hunting several times.

He was well known as a taxidermist and mounted deer heads for many of the hunters. He was head of the hunters' club of Western Michigan College of Education and several specimens of his work in taxidermy are on display in that institution.

Richard was baptized by the Reverend William Hill, pastor of the Wilson Memorial Church in Recreation Park. He was a Boy Scout at one time and later taught a class in the Wilson Memorial Church school. He also assisted the Boy Scout work connected with the Recreation Park public school.

He became intensely interested in organized community recreation and often remarked that when the war was over he wanted to help better the conditions among the youth. His brother Charles is now, in 1946, doing this in Richard's place, coaching base ball at Recreation Park school.

The following is copied from a letter written by Major General James E. Parker, commanding officer in the United States Army, to Mrs. Helen June Lester:

"My dear Mrs. Lester:

Being the wife of a soldier in time of war is a difficult lot at best. When a loss such as yours is sustained one's position relative to the war is brought even closer. These days the term, "supreme sacrifice", is used rather glibly, but to those of you near to someone who has given his life for his country, all its solemnity is implied.

As Commanding General of the Fourth Air Force, please allow me to impart some small portion of my deepest feelings to you in this time of sorrow. Be ever proud, as we were, of your husband, Second Lieutenant Richard George Lester, who served his country to the fullest.

Sincerely,"

Richard Lester was a fine example of a splendid young man with high ideals who went out in the service of his country. He was keenly sensitive to the moods of others and wanted people to be happy and he did all he could to help others. He was loving and tender with his parents and his brothers and sisters and devoted to the school days sweetheart who became his wife.

Richard Lester, we honor you, our fellow citizen, who gave your life for our country!

The poem on the following page was written by John McGee, the son of an Episcopal clergyman. Later John McGee lost his life in plane combat.

"Oh! I have slipped the surly bands of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings!
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling
 mirth
Of sun-split clouds — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared
 and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy
 grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew —
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand and touched the
 Face of God."

George Little



G E O R G E E D W A R D L I T T L E

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George Edward Little was born in Richland, Michigan, November 5, 1870, one of four children born to William and Charlotte Brown Little, both members of pioneer families. The other members of the family were Charles H., William F. and Lucy E. Little. After attending the public schools in Richland, he was a student at Kalamazoo College and Michigan State Normal College at Ypsilanti.

He was married December 30, 1897, to Mary Barnes, also a member of one of the early families of Richland. They were the parents of Caroline, now Mrs. Ivan Grettum, George Raymond and Alvin Henry Little. (CAROLINE DIED 1970),

Both Mr. and Mrs. George Little were active in the civic and religious life of Richland, where he served as a member of the school board for many years, during which time the school township unit system was established. He also held various offices in the Presbyterian Church there.

Mrs. Little died in 1917 and two years later he married Cora Starr, also of Richland. At that time

they moved to Kalamazoo and since then the residence has been at 929 South Westnedge Avenue.

Mr. Little entered the milling business in Yorkville in 1899. Five years later, in 1904, he came to Kalamazoo and was associated with A. K. Zinn, operating mills in Kalamazoo and Galesburg. A short time later, Mr. Zinn withdrew from the business and the enterprise became known as the George Little Company. His brother, Charles, became an associate in 1912 in the Little Brothers grain, feed and fuel business. The 35th anniversary of the company was celebrated in 1939, when the Little Brothers' new hatchery was opened at 313 East Kalamazoo Avenue.

Mr. Little was active in the affairs of the church and served as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo. He was also a member of the Kalamazoo Kiwanis club, which he joined just one year after the local club was organized.

He was an ardent enthusiast of most sports and was at one time an active member of the Gull Lake Ice Boat Club.

His six grandchildren are Mary Barnes Little, William Tedrow Little, Luella Steele Little, Susan Harvey Little, Carolyn Anne Grettum and John Little

Grettum.

Mr. Little died May 6, 1940, at the age of sixty-nine years. Burial was in Prairie Home cemetery at Richland. The foregoing was written in 1940.

SISTER LUCY ELLEN DIED 1958, UNMARRIED

DAUGHTER CAROLINE DIED 1970.

CORA STARR LITTLE DIED 1955.

FATHER: W. M. HENRY 1837-1928

MOTHER: CHARLOTTE BROWN 1841-1898

STEP-MOTHER: BELLE JACKSON 1854-1936.

Mr. & Mrs. William Little



M R . & M R S .
W I L L I A M L I T T L E
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William Little, the son of James Little and Helen Bakin Little, was born December 27, 1867, in Uxbridge, Ontario, Canada, the parents being of Scotch ancestry. He was one of six children, three boys and three girls, the others being Jean, Helen, Hannah, John and David.

William attended the school near his home. In 1887, just before he was twenty years of age, he came to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to work. Two years later he was followed to Grand Rapids by his brother David and the two boys learned the trade of brick masonry.

From Grand Rapids the two young men went to Chicago, Illinois, to work at their chosen occupation and when later they returned to Michigan, they settled in Kalamazoo where work was plentiful.

The boys and girls from this family were reared in a devout Christian home in Canada, where they attended and were members of the Presbyterian Church. In Kalamazoo, William united with the Mennonite Church of the Brethren in Christ, to which he was

attracted by the warmth and earnestness of the fellowship. He was also at one time president of the mission established in Kalamazoo by Evangelist Mel Trotter.

It was in Kalamazoo that Mr. Little met and married Miss Eva Ball, whose parents were William and Eliza Feller Ball, of German-Swiss descent. Eva Ball was born near Canton, Ohio, September 2, 1878. She, too, was from a family of six children, Clara A., Ida M., Clifford J., Hazel S., and Vada Jean, being the others.

In 1891, the family moved from Ohio to Kalamazoo and lived on West Walnut street. The parents and three of their children have passed away and were buried in Riverside cemetery, Kalamazoo.

Mr. and Mrs. William Little became the parents of Frances E., Howard J., and one who died in infancy.

Frances was graduated from the Western Michigan College of Education with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and from the Eastman School of Music with the degree of Master of Arts. For a time she was a member of the faculty of the Western Michigan College of Education. After receiving her Master's degree she went to India as head of the Music Department.

at Kodiakanal School, where children of missionaries were taught. In 1939, when war conditions made it necessary for her to return to the United States, she came during the summer by way of European countries and visited the city where her grand parents were born. On a previous trip to Europe she had visited the community in Scotland where her father's people had lived. Frances is now, in 1943, in Red Cross work at Walter Reed Hospital Washington, District of Columbia.

Mr. William Little worked for many years in Kalamazoo and was especially in demand for brick work requiring artistic skill. He worked with his brother David in the erection of some of the more important church buildings and some college buildings. He retired from business in 1939.

He was five feet, six inches tall and was slender and youthful in appearance. with dark hair and brown eyes.

He lived in Kalamazoo for fifty years and was known as a very active religious worker and well versed in the Scriptures. He was also well known for his integrity of purpose and sincerity of spirit. He was the soul of honor, unassuming in manner, kindly and charitable in his judgments and apprecia-

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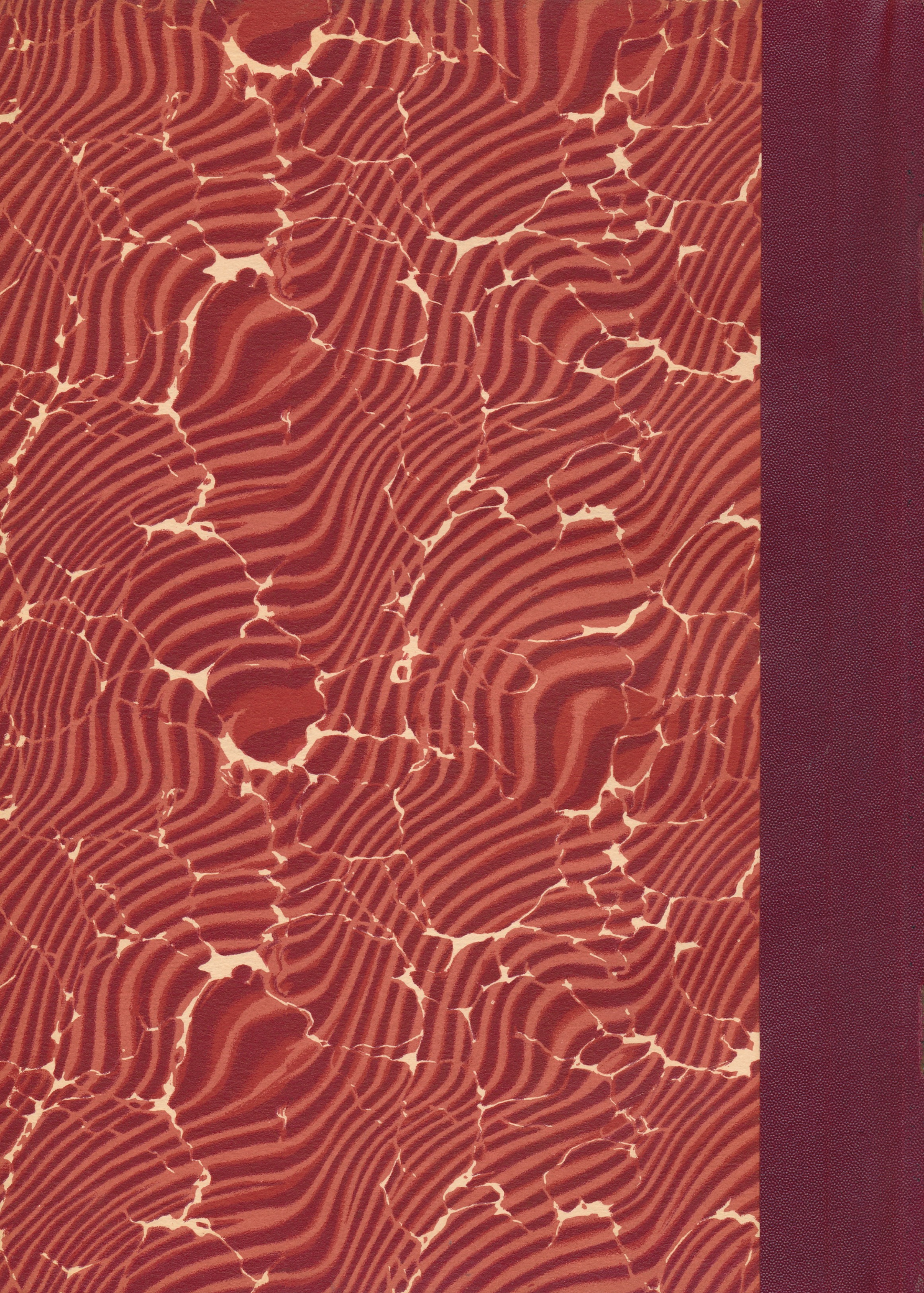
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tive of everything good.

Death came to Mr. Little February 16, 1943 at his home at 816 Oak street, finding him firm in his belief in God and the eternal life. His sister, Mrs. J. N. Kitching, of Stouffville, Ontario, was the only member of his childhood family to survive him.

Funeral services were conducted by his pastor, the Reverend Vernon H. Yousey, and burial was in Riverside cemetery.





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